

F O U R T H

Sunday in Lent



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2577 Wickham Drive

Muskegon, Michigan 49441-3182

Phone (231) 759-1275

www.fpcmuskegon.org

***The Service for the Lord's Day
4th Sunday in Lent
March 11, 2018***

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

PREDLUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.

Ps. 107:1

*OPENING HYMN #624

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

This is the judgment, that the light has
come into the world,
for people loved darkness rather than light
because their deeds were evil.
Let us uncover our sin before the liberating
light of Christ.

John 3:19

**Merciful God,
we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy
of our complaints.
We grumble about the evils in our world,
even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit.
We fret about the scarcity of resources
while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor.
We protest the problems of our world,
but we do not actively work to address them.**

Num. 21:4-6

**Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace.
Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways
that we me know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

John 3:17

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

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

HYMN #432 *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

A TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Kirk Wahamaki

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Numbers 21:4–9 [p. 139 OT]

GOSPEL LESSON John 3:14-21 [p. 94 NT]

EPISTLE LESSON Ephesians 2:1–10 [p. 192 NT]

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Pastor Jim Rausch

INSTALLATION OF ELDER

OPENING SENTENCES (Read responsively)

- Pastor: There are different gifts,
People: But it is the same spirit who gives them.
- Pastor: There are different ways of serving God,
People: But it is the same Lord who is served.
- Pastor: God works through different people in different ways.
People: But it is the same God who achieves his purpose through them all.
- Pastor: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit.
People: To use it for the common good.
- Pastor: Together we are the body of Christ.
People: And individually members of him.
- Pastor: We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism, and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord. Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as deacons, as ruling elders, and as teaching elders.
People: Ordination is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us, providing for ministries of caring and compassion in the world, ordering the governance of the church, preaching the Word and administering the sacraments.
- Elder: Representing the one, holy catholic, and apostolic church, the session of First Presbyterian Church now installs Cammie Hussey to active service on the session.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

- Elder: Do we, the members of the church, accept Cammie as an elder chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

All: We do.

Elder: Do we agree to encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she and the session guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

All: We do.

PRAYER OF ORDINATION

(All currently active elders and deacons come forward for the laying on of hands.)

OFFERING

Registration of Attendance

OFFERTORY

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS #652

A Grateful Heart (verse 1)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Merciful God, we thank you for your
wonderful works among humankind.
Accept this offering with the dedication
of our lives and help us be for the world an emblem
of your steadfast love,
in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Ps. 107:22

Ps. 107:1

*CLOSING HYMN #225

Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

*GOD'S BLESSING AS WE GO

*POSTLUDE

Questions for Reflection

God is at work offering forgiveness, showing mercy, and giving knowledge of life, death, and salvation. Where is God enacting that new life within or around you? What in your life must die so that you may flourish? What must fall away so that you can rise again in Christ?

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, you offer the gift of new life each day.
Open my heart to receive this grace that I may be wholly yours,
then give me the courage to share this gift wherever I go
as I seek to walk in your way of mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Forgiving God, who makes all things new,
you know where I have flourished this day,
and you know where I have failed.
Help me to know that in all my challenges there is a seed of hope
that enables me to more faithfully depend on you.
May I rest in peace this night and awake refreshed
to greet the newness of your day. Amen.

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Lay Liturgist – Evan Hodson; Greeters – Don & Pam Correll, Jeanette Reckell & Shawn Perry; Ushers – Lowell & Roxanne Kinney, Greg & Deryl Boughton; After Worship Hospitality – Quinn & Linda Champion; Offering Counters – Dave & Jacquie Swenson

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.

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 speaker is Aitan Rustomova.

Church World Service Blanket Sunday will be extended through today. CWS envelopes are in the pews and \$10 purchases one CWS blanket. Blankets of all sizes, including baby blankets, will be distributed to Every Woman's Place and the Household Pantry at Mission for Area People Blankets will be collected in the Wickham hallway.

The deadline to submit articles for the next issue of the Highland Herald is today.

Please leave your articles in the newsletter mailbox in the reception office or email them to office@fpcmuskegon.org.

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.

All Hands on Deck! The FPC Youth will be volunteering at Kids Food Basket on April 14th and need extra hands to assist. Details and sign-up sheet are on the "Upcoming Events" bulletin board.

The Palm Sunday Pancake Brunch will be March 25th following worship. Donations will be accepted to benefit youth programs.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

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! The theme is “Babylon, Daniel’s Courage in Captivity.” If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, contact Arisha. Register at <https://vbspro.events/p/fpcmuskegon-vbs>.

Easter is approaching! Help is needed to stuff eggs and prepare games! The Easter Egg Hunt will be March 25th from 1 – 3 p.m. See Arisha for details.

With our Souper Bowl of Caring donations of \$520 this year, the national donations have reached a total of \$8,000,000 so far! Great job!!!!

Sign up to attend the May 5th performance of Monty Python’s SPAMALOT, performed by the Muskegon Civic Theatre at the Frauenthal Center. Attend dinner with your FPC family and friends prior to the show at the Harbor Holiday Inn. Ticket and payment information is posted on the “Upcoming Events” bulletin board.

This year’s annual Lenten Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, March 24th has been cancelled.

Sunday, March 11

10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Hospitality
11:00 am	YAC Time
11:30 am	Lenten Reflections

Monday, March 12

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

Tuesday, March 13

9:30 am	Mom’s Workout Group
10:00 am	Hunger Committee Mtg.
12:30 pm	Sarah Circle
4:30 pm	M, C & S Council Mtg.
6:00 pm	Choir Practice
6:30 pm	Finance Council Mtg.
7:15 pm	Gentle Yoga

Wednesday, March 14

7:00 pm	O & C Meeting
---------	---------------

Thursday, March 15

6:30 pm	Flower Arranging Class
---------	------------------------

Friday, March 16

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

Saturday, March 17

10:00 am	Girl Scouts
----------	-------------

Sunday, March 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 Breakfast