

you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows

The kingdom of God... is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed



and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches

that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.

M a r k 4 : 3 0 - 3 2

*The Service for the Lord's Day
4th Sunday after Pentecost
June 17, 2018*

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *Sound the Mystic Bamboo Song* Men's Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Small as a mustard seed and lofty as a cedar:

Mark 4:27, 31–32;

The kingdom of God is growing.

Ezek. 17:22–24b

While we sleep and rise night and day:

The kingdom of God is growing.

The low are brought high; the high are brought low:

The kingdom of God is growing,

its large branches are home to all kinds of people!

*OPENING HYMN #804 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God will not count our trespasses against us,
longing instead for us to be reconciled.

2 Cor. 5:19–20

We come before God, then,
in honesty, humility, and hope.

Gracious God,

we so often miss your kingdom at work among us.

Captivated by power and prestige,

**we overlook the mustard seeds you have planted
all around.**

Mark 4:31

**Forgive us for failing to notice
where and how you are at work.
Forgive us when we work against your plans
and purposes—
fostering divisions when you have called us
to a ministry of reconciliation;
beset by apathy when the world has such deep needs;
building walls to keep people out when your branches
offer generous nests.
Help us to grow in faithfulness, we pray,
so that we might reach our fullest height of faith.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

2 Cor. 5:18

Mark 4:32

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!
**We are ambassadors for Christ,
for God has reconciled us through him!**

2 Cor. 5:17–18, 20

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #447**

We Are Forgiven

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

(Please place prayer request cards in baskets)

**** Please be seated.**

HYMN

#171

A Sower Came from Ancient Hills

A TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Roxanne Deibel

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ezekiel 17:22–24 [p. 784 OT]

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 4:26–34 [p. 38 NT]

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

"I Don't Know, I Just Work Here

Pastor Jim Rausch

SHARING OUR PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

Registration of Attendance

OFFERTORY HYMN #684

Faith Begins by Letting Go

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS #654

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Life-giving God,
we know that you will accomplish everything
you purpose.
Accept, we pray, these offerings from our hands.
May they contribute to what you are doing
so that life may flourish.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Ezek. 17:24c, d

*CLOSING HYMN

#714

God of the Fertile Fields

*GOD'S BLESSING AS WE GO

*POSTLUDE

† † †

Question for Reflection

What are some things you count on coming to fruition even if you don't understand how they develop? God's kingdom is described by the Bible as growing and developing as God intends even though we don't understand how.

How might this give you encouragement?

Household Prayer: Morning

New every morning are your mercies, Lord.

And new also is this day,

full of promise and possibility.

Give me eyes to see your new creation that is already
coming into being,

even as I come and go among familiar places.

I pray that you will help me to see others

not from a human point of view,

but to see them through your eyes

of love, grace, and second chances.

I will try to walk by faith and not by sight alone.

And I will look for ways that I can be a part

of Christ's ministry of reconciliation.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Gracious God,

with the psalmist I say:

It is good to declare your steadfast love in the morning

and your faithfulness by night.

For all the ways you loved me through the day that is past,

I give you thanks.

For your faithful watching over me tonight,

I also give thanks.

Like a bird asleep in its nest,

secure on a sturdy branch,

I—and all the world—rest in your wide embrace.

Despite all evidence to the contrary,

headlined in the news of this day,

I trust that your kingdom is growing;

that all of us are becoming a new creation

through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

LAY LITURGIST: Caroline Jeisy; GREETERS: Julie Anderson, Mary Ellen Willcox; USHERS: Jim & Jolene Cloutier, Don & Pam Correll; AFTER WORSHIP HOSPITALITY: Member Care Council; OFFERING COUNTERS: Bill Papo & Julie Stewart

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.

Strawberry Sunday is today! Enjoy strawberries, shortcakes and ice cream provided by Member Care Council in the chapel following the worship service for FPC's annual celebration of summer!

This morning's flowers have been provided by Roberta Johnson & Nancy Evans in memory of Robert Johnson and Charles Pider.

We will host Family Promise again July 8 - 14. Our church will provide a safe place for homeless families to sleep and have a good dinner. We had a successful week in April when three families stayed in our church. We are looking forward to hosting families again. We need volunteers to be drivers, greeters, cooks, evening hosts, overnight hosts and breakfast providers. What talents do you have to put to use in this local mission project? The sign-up sheet, with job descriptions, is at the table in the narthex. We hope to have all the jobs filled by June 30.

There will be a VBS volunteer orientation today after service in the library. Please attend this short meeting to prepare for our VBS experience, June 24th-28th from 5-8 pm. If you have not registered yet, register at <https://vbspro.events/p/fpcmuskegon-vbs>

The deacons will meet at the home of Greg and Deryl Boughton on Sunday, June 24th at 1 p.m.

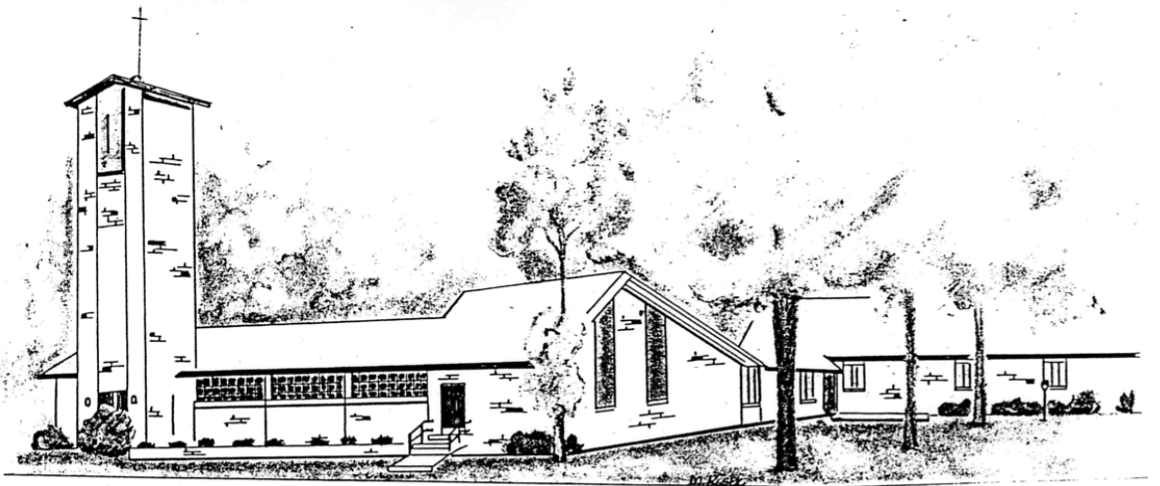
The **Men's Breakfast** at the Cherokee Restaurant will be held on Wednesday, June 27th at 8 a.m. Kelly Richards, Director of Muskegon Area District Library will provide an update on the current programs.

Each year the Congregational Nominating Committee of FPC seeks your input as to persons in our congregation you believe to be gifted for service and for leadership as ordained members of the Board of Deacons and the Session of Elders.

Please prayerfully consider suggesting to the CNC the name of members that you feel are gifted and would be able to serve in a leadership capacity for FPC. Nomination forms are located on the table in the narthex.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FPC

06/17 Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Hospitality
06/18 Monday	9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
06/19 Tuesday	7:15 pm	Gentle Yoga
06/20 Wednesday	1:00 pm 6:30 pm	Hackley Postpartum Group Session Meeting
06/21 Thursday	10:00 am	Chair Yoga
06/22 Friday	9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
06/24 Sunday	10:00 am 11:00 am 1:00 pm 5:00 pm	Worship Hospitality Deacons Meeting @ Boughton's Vacation Bible School



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Financial Secretary:

Kathy DeCormier

Nursery Attendants:

Melissa Boughton & LaToya Wright

Custodian:

Rich Reubens