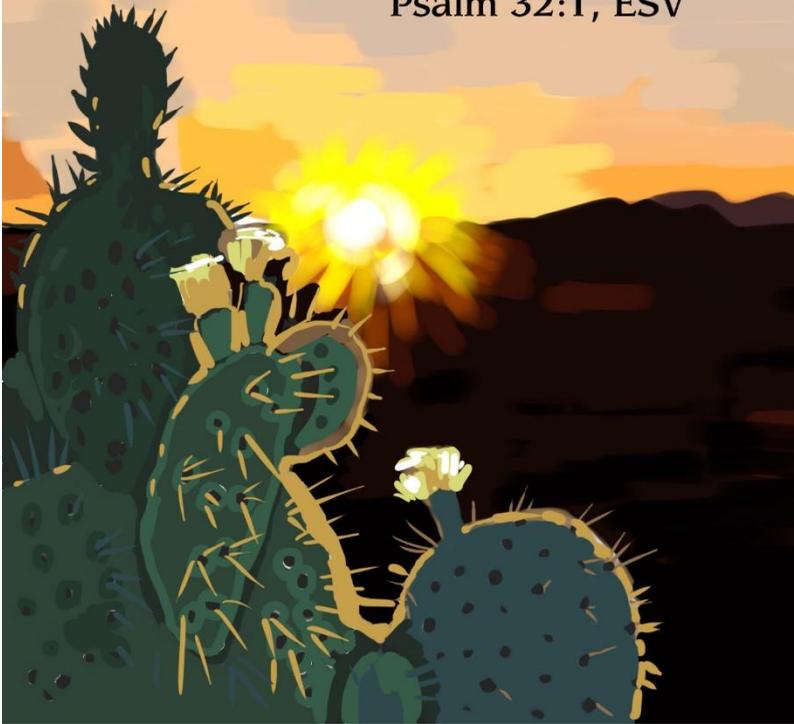


**BLESSED** *is the one*  
whose transgression  
is **forgiven**,  
*whose sin is covered.*

Psalm 32:1, ESV



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
2577 Wickham Drive  
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*The Service for the Lord's Day  
18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 23, 2018*

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy God, let the glow of your Spirit illumine those places  
where we hide in the shadows,  
trying to avoid the life-changing confrontations  
that worship can bring.  
Take away our foolish "Do Not Disturb" signs,  
and meet us in our places of need;  
**We are here to worship you, God of life.**

\*OPENING HYMN #174                      *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The psalmist asks a question: how long?  
How long will we live unjustly and show partiality,  
instead of loving as God has loved us?  
Trusting in that love,  
let us confess our transgressions to the Lord.  
**Father God, it is with remorse in our hearts that we confess  
how often we are so wrapped up in ourselves and our own needs  
that we completely ignore the needs of others  
and are not even aware of the pain they bear.  
Forgive us our thoughtless ways.  
Show us how to understand those near to us,**

*Ps. 82:2*

**to reach out to them and stand with them in their need;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
in whom we are called to be a compassionate people. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In the temple, Isaiah heard these words:

“Your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”

*Isa. 6:7*

**God’s grace toward us has not been in vain!**

**This is the good news we have received:**

**in Christ’s death and resurrection,**

**we have been saved.**

*1 Cor. 15:10, 2–4*

\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS #188

*Jesus Loves Me (verse 1)*

\*SHARING OUR GIFT OF PEACE FROM CHRIST

(Please place prayer request cards in baskets)

\*\* *Please be seated.*

HYMN #446

*How Blest, Those Whose Transgressions*

A TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Roxanne Deibel

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 32

[p. 506 OT]

Romans 7:21-8:4

[p. 157 NT]

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

***"Michelle Piper's Take on 'Guilt'"***

Pastor Jim Rausch

SHARING OUR PRAYERS AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

*Registration of Attendance*

OFFERTORY

*Safe Within Your Arms*

Chancel Choir

\*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS #609      *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Loving God, we give you thanks  
for the ministry of reconciliation to which you call us  
in the name of Jesus Christ and his resurrection.  
Accept these gifts for your mission to heal all creation.  
May they be a testament to your love for us  
as we share them in love for you;  
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

\* CLOSING HYMN #772      *Live Into Hope*

\*BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE

† † †

### *Questions for Reflection*

Have you ever carried guilt as a burden you thought was necessary or appropriate?  
How could laying aside the burden of guilt lead to more abundant life?

### *Household Prayer: Morning*

As I open my eyes,  
I can see the heavens that tell of your glory.  
Allow me to be part of this creation  
that proclaims your handiwork  
and your real presence in the world. Amen.

### *Household Prayer: Evening*

As the day winds down,  
allow me to find satisfaction in the thought  
that I have taken my cross and followed you.  
Allow me to find rest in the knowledge  
that I did not act as if I was ashamed of you.  
And if I failed you, forgive me  
and allow me to find solace  
in the new mercies of the morning. Amen.

## **ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP**

LAY LITURGIST: Phyl Mastic; GREETERS: Mary Ellen Willcox, Bill & Peggy Schaefer;  
USHERS: Bill & Peggy Schaefer, Ron & Mary Rop; AFTER WORSHIP HOSPITALITY: Bev Spiwak &  
Mary Seieroe; OFFERING COUNTERS: Bob & Cheryl Hartman

## **NEWS & 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.

***This morning's flowers have been provided by Mark & Kristi Clark***

The ***Men's Breakfast*** at Cherokee Restaurant will be held on Wednesday morning, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. Michelle Primmer, Market Manager of the Muskegon Farmers Market will provide an update on the Farmers Market and the "Senior Power of Produce" program available on Tuesdays.

***Wondering what the kids are doing in the nursery?*** After Children's Time, the kids hurry to the nursery to enjoy activities, play and have Bible lessons provided by the Christian Education Department. This is an opportunity for our children to connect and fellowship with peers as well as grow in their relationship in Christ.

***Candy donations are now being accepted for the YY Halloween Trunk-or-Treat event.*** Please deliver candy during office hours. See Arisha for questions.

***The YY will be supporting AMBUCS in their bowling benefit Sept 29, 6-9 pm.*** All YY participants need to RSVP with Arisha and meet at the church at 5:45 pm to carpool.

Sign up to view the documentary, ***"Light in Their Eyes,"*** presented by Bethany Christian Services on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. It shows the trials and triumphs of the adoption journey of three couples.

***October 21 to October 28 is Family Promise week at our church.*** We will be hosting three homeless families for the week, giving them a safe place to sleep and a hot dinner. Volunteer sign up begins today after church in the narthex. We will answer all questions and give you a job description. April and July weeks of Family Promise were a success because you, the members of our church, who volunteered to help homeless families in our area. Won't you sign up now?

**There will be a spaghetti luncheon in fellowship hall on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m. to kick-off the annual stewardship campaign.** Please make an effort to attend as we will be passing out the pledge cards to help prepare the 2019 budget. A sign-up sheet is posted in the main hallway.

**What's News?** Jon Mills will talk about how to figure out the news and how to interpret all the noise from our surroundings on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The discussion is sponsored by the Outreach & Communication Council. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many people to expect.

**Please register and take an envelope if you would like to participate in the 2018 CROP Walk** whether you receive donations online, by check, or by cash. All envelopes have an attached note with simple instructions to our FPC CROP Walk Team on line. All donations are to be turned in at the Walk on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. You may pick up your envelope on Sundays throughout September as well as October 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for participating in the 2018 CROP Walk.

**THE IMPACT OF YOUR CROP WALK CONTRIBUTION**

**CWS January-June 2018**

**Syria:**

9,960 School Kits

9,990 Hygiene Kits

**United States:**

19,201 Blankets

1,776 Cleanup Buckets

420 School Kits

965 Hygiene Kits

315 Baby Care Kits

**PLEASE SIGN UP TO WALK OR SPONSOR A WALKER**

**WEEKLY COLLECTION AMOUNT NEEDED TO MEET 2018 BUDGETED INCOME**

Amount needed each week

\$6,221.07

Amount collected last week

(09/16/18 ) \$7,631.00

Actual Income is \$15,639 less than Budgeted income through August 2018

Fifteen (15) Sundays left in 2018 as of 09/16/18

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FPC

09/23/18 Sunday	8:30 am	Joyful Ringers
	8:45 am	Book Review
	9:15 am	Choir Warm-up
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Hospitality
09/24/18 Monday	9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
	10:00 am	Book discussion
	3:00 pm	Bible Study
09/25/18 Tuesday	9:30 am	Moms Workout Group
	6:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Gentle Yoga
09/26/18 Wednesday	8:00 am	Men's Breakfast
09/27/18 Thursday	10:00 am	Chair Yoga
09/28/18 Friday	9:30 am	Gentle Yoga
09/29/18 Saturday	5:45 pm	YY Bowling Event
09/30/18 Sunday	8:30 am	Joyful Ringers
	8:45 am	Book Discussion
	9:15 am	Choir Warm-up
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Hospitality