



First Presbyterian Church
of Elk Rapids

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Rev. Jim Porter, Senior Pastor
Rev. Sandra Murray, Parish Associate
Cheryl Knight, Director of Music Ministries
Melanie Stoll, Contemporary Worship Leader
Wayne Potter, Director of Youth and Family Life Ministries

September 1, 2019

MEDITATION TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS
AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

*Why are you cast down, O
my soul, and why are you
in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall
again praise him, my
salvation and my God.”*
Psalm 43:5

Our Mission

Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him;
Deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him;
Demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Traditional Worship – 9:00 AM

* Signifies the congregation may stand as able. | Please silence all electronic devices.

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church!

If you do not have a church home in the area, we invite you to make our church yours. Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor so you can get acquainted.



We encourage you to take a moment to check in on Facebook.

PREPARING

THE PRELUDE – “*I Feel the Spirit Moving*” arr. by Hayes

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR MISSION Nancy Muhlig

*GREETING EACH OTHER IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

RINGING OF THE HISTORIC CHURCH BELL AND
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Sandra Murray

Leader: We rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters,

People: and gives us refreshment of soul.

Leader: Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go,

People: so that the name of God will be glorified.

Leader: Though all manner of evil befall us, we will not be afraid,

People: for the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us.

Leader: We are never away from the love and mercy of the Lord,

People: and we shall be with him forever and ever. Amen!

All: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN 56 – *To God Be the Glory*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (followed by silent confessions) Rev. Sandra Murray

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE – *Kyrie*

**Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Sandra Murray

Leader: The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.**

MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN

Wayne Potter

Director of Youth & Family Life Ministries

CHORAL ANTHEM – *“Wade in the Water”*

by Hayes

PROCLAIMING

SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 23 (pg. 501 OT)

Rev. Sandra Murray

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“When Does Forever Begin?”

Wayne Potter

RESPONDING

*RESPONSIVE HYMN 694 – *The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want*

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

All who place trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to share the goodness set before us on this table and to participate fully in this celebration.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Sandra Murray

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

The Pastor will give instructions for how we will partake of the bread and the cup.

OFFERTORY – “Somebody’s Knocking’ at Your Door” arr. by Hayes

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: We dedicate these gifts, Lord, for the work of the church, and we ask you to use all that we have and all that we are in your service. Amen.

CONCLUDING HYMN 774 – *When the Roll is Called Up Yonder

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Leader: In the coming week what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to: Introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him; deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know Him; and demonstrate Christ’s way of love in service to the world.

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE – *“Let There Be Peace On Earth”

THE POSTLUDE – *“The Gospel of Grace”* arr. by Hayes

WORSHIP CONCLUDES—SERVICE BEGINS!

WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome friends. If you are a guest, please take a moment to sign the Friendship Pad at the end of each pew, and include a phone number or email address so we can acknowledge your visit today. We hope your worship experience is meaningful and uplifting. Meet new friends at “Fellowship Hour” in the narthex before and after worship. Also, be sure to pick up a “Welcome” folder from our guest table also located in the narthex.

Child care. Qualified caregivers welcome infants and children through 3rd grade.



We have an induction hearing loop system for hearing aid users. Please switch hearing aids to “T” or see the sound technician for help.

Large print bulletins and hymn sheets available from an usher.

Thank you. Special thanks to our greeter: Don Reynolds; ushers: Chris & Shelly Shively, Lori Caruso; and fellowship hour: Fellowship Team.

Thank you to our communion servers today: Mary Anne Frey, Don Reynolds, Eunice Thompson, Lynda Nichols, and Betty Tezak (choir).

Prayer requests: Don & Sandy Davids’ granddaughter Alexa, Karyl Mangus’ granddaughter Jessica, Donald Kinloch, Olivia Lein, Suzanna Lein, Mike Cameron, Caleigh Gordon (Former Eagle Village resident), Nash Nichols (Tom & Diane Thompson’s grandson), Denise Elmi’s son Josh, Whitaker Reinhardt, Len Sheldon, Terry Hogarth, Carolyn Gauthier, Sarah Hulwick’s brother Josh, Roger Gehrt, Nancy Muhlig’s sister Jan, Mary Sawyer’s friend Mac, Mary Sawyer’s friend Chris, Richard Smith, and First Presbyterian Church of Harbor Springs.

Chancel flowers are placed by Edson & Gloria Murray in celebration of their 29th wedding anniversary.

Please note that the church office will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 2. Normal offices hours will resume on Tuesday, September 3.



Thank you! The loss of my father has been very difficult on my family and I. I just want you to know how much we have appreciated all of your support, prayers, and encouragement. ~ Wayne Potter

This Week's Activities

Sun. 9/1

10 a.m. One Service

Mon. 9/2

Labor Day - Office Closed

Tues. 9/3

10 a.m. Bible Girls

Wed. 9/4

Harvest Dinner/Silent

Auction Set-up

9 a.m. Bulletin Items Due

4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 9/5

1 p.m. Hospitality MT

2 p.m. Directory Pictures @ LH

3 p.m. Silent Auction

5 p.m. Harvest Dinner

Fri. 9/6

8:30 a.m. Community Cupboard

2 p.m. Directory Pictures @ LH

Sat. 9/7

10:30 a.m. Directory Pictures @ LH

Next Week's Activities

Sun. 9/8

9 a.m. Traditional Service

10 a.m. SS/Youth & Adult Class

11 a.m. Contemporary Service

Mon. 9/9

9 a.m. PEO

5:30 p.m. Personnel MT

Tues. 9/10

9 a.m. Men's Group

10 a.m. Bible Girls

10 a.m. Outreach MT

1 p.m. Worship MT

6:30 p.m. Endowment MT

Wed. 9/11

9 a.m. Bulletin Items Due

4:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice

Thurs. 9/12

5:30 p.m. Fellowship MT

7 p.m. Trustees

Fri. 9/13

What's Happening

Don't miss being a part of the new church directory!

We would like all of our members and friends of First Pres. to get their picture taken and be a part of our directory.

It's easy! Just use this link to sign up today: www.ucdir.com

Once you are at the website, click on the "Photography Appointment - Scheduling" tab on the right hand side of the webpage. Our church code is **mi1393** and our password is **photos**.

Pictures will be taken September 5, 6, and 7 (that's next week!) at the Lighthouse. Reserve your time by filling in the required information. If you have 6 or more family members or want more than one combination of participants reserve two consecutive times. September 1st will be the last time you can reserve a spot in person before or after the one service at 10 am.

Sign up today so you do not miss out! **If you will be out of town Sept 5, 6, and 7 during the photography sessions call Garry Sumerix at 989-964-1420 for information on how you can still get in the directory and get your free directory when they arrive in October.**

Thank you for your participation in the new Directory!

Annual Harvest Dinner & Silent Auction—September 5



Tickets are now available on Sundays in the narthex for the Harvest Dinner. The cost is \$12 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, and \$20 for families (4 or more - 1 to 2 adults & children). You'll want to plan to attend dinner from 5:00-7:00 p.m. and the Silent Auction from 3:00-6:30 p.m. Here are some opportunities you have to participate in this exciting event:

- Bring a pie or two. Contact Phyllis Staley (264-5857) or sign up at the Activity Center.
- Volunteer as a server for the event. Contact Jan Shurte (264-9330) or sign up at the Activity Center.
- Of course we need shoppers! Think birthdays, Christmas, hostess gifts, and remember the good cause.

Please drop off donated items at the church choir room September 1-5 and make sure to note your name & the value of the item.

You have always been so gracious with your donations and we are looking forward to your support again this year.

Sunday School Begins - Sunday, September 8

If you have children through the 5th grade, make plans now to bring them to Sunday School beginning next week at 10:00 a.m.

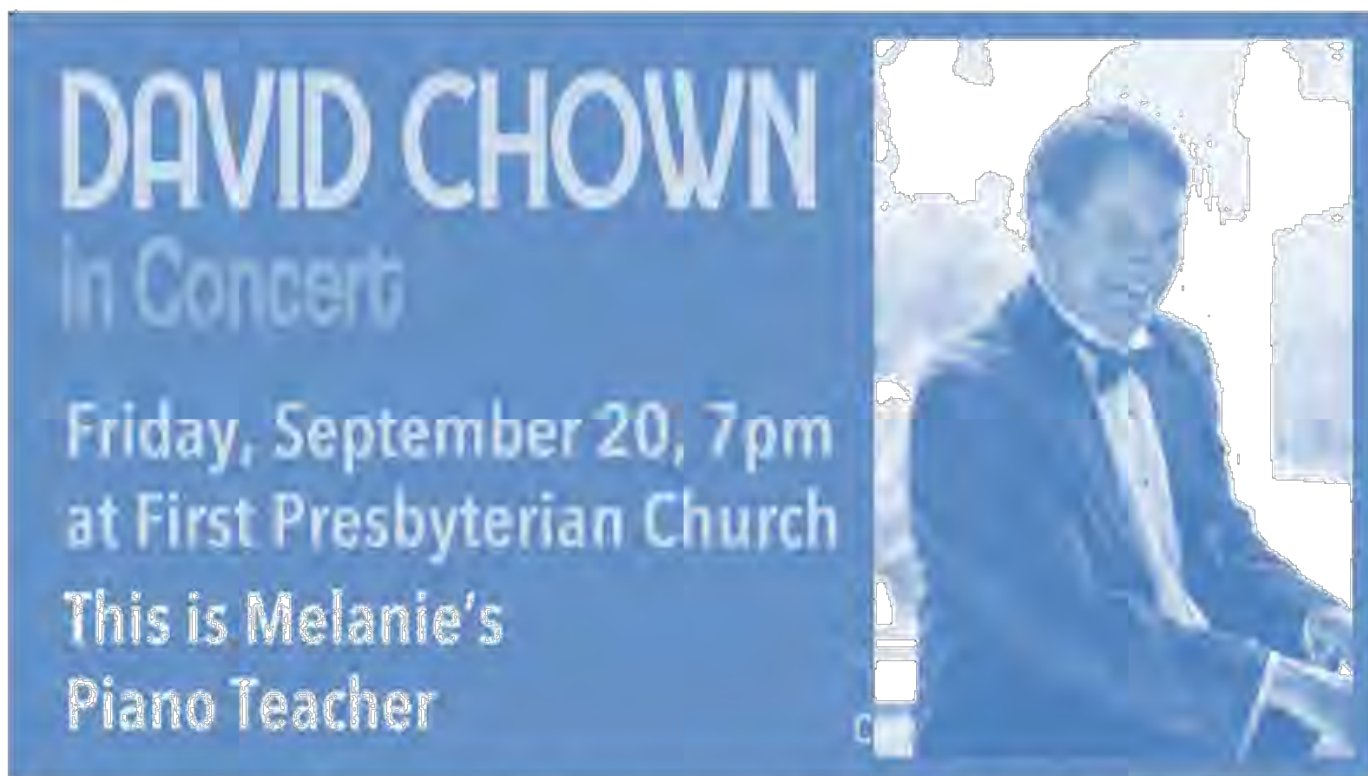
Blessing of the Backpacks - Sunday, September 8 at 11AM

All children are invited to bring their backpacks to worship on Sunday, September 8. At the 11:00 a.m. service our congregation will have a time of prayer for our children as they start the new school year.

“Seamless” - This class is for you!

Whether you've grown up learning Bible stories or you're exploring Scripture for the first time, this class is for you. In 6 sessions, “Seamless” covers key people, places and promises of the Bible, tying them together into one beautiful, seamless thread. The study brings to life major events from the Old and New Testament and focuses on the truth of the Gospel message.

Mark your calendar for September 8 through October 13, 10:15-11 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Having taught this excellent class twice before, Pam Shuler has agreed to teach it again. Using pictures, maps, dvd and books, Pam will capture your attention and interest as she helps you see the big picture of Scripture. Books, featuring a fold-out map summarizing the study, will be available soon. A donation of \$10 will be appreciated but not required. Sign up now at the Activity Center.



DAVID CHOWN
In Concert
Friday, September 20, 7pm
at First Presbyterian Church
This is Melanie's
Piano Teacher

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend on Friday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. David Chown is a top jazz pianist in the Northern Michigan area. You won't want to miss this concert!

Presbytery Point Camp Help Support Camp with Donations

The next Presbytery meeting takes place on September 20 & 21 at the camp. At that time Presbytery will be collecting items to help support the camp.

We would love to participate in helping PRESBYTERY POINT CAMP. If you are able to contribute any of the following items, Bill Clark, Dale Wagner, and Pastor Jim will take them to the UP as they'll be attending the Presbytery meeting. **Please bring items to the church September 1, 8, or 15.**



- Bug Spray
- Carabiners for swim buoys
- Costumes (new or gently used)
- Hemp string
- Large and small waterproof tarps
- Bulk snacks (allergen free preferably i.e., nut free)
- White cotton t-shirts of all sizes
- Heavy-duty rubber gloves (all sizes)

Thank you for helping to support the camp with your donations. The campers will be blessed.



“Glory to God” New Presbyterian Hymnal Update

We are over halfway to our goal of purchasing 200 new hymnals for our sanctuary! Don't miss this chance to honor or remember a loved one by purchasing a hymnal. Each hymnal is \$18 and the name of your loved one will be printed inside the front. Forms are available at the Activity Center in the narthex.