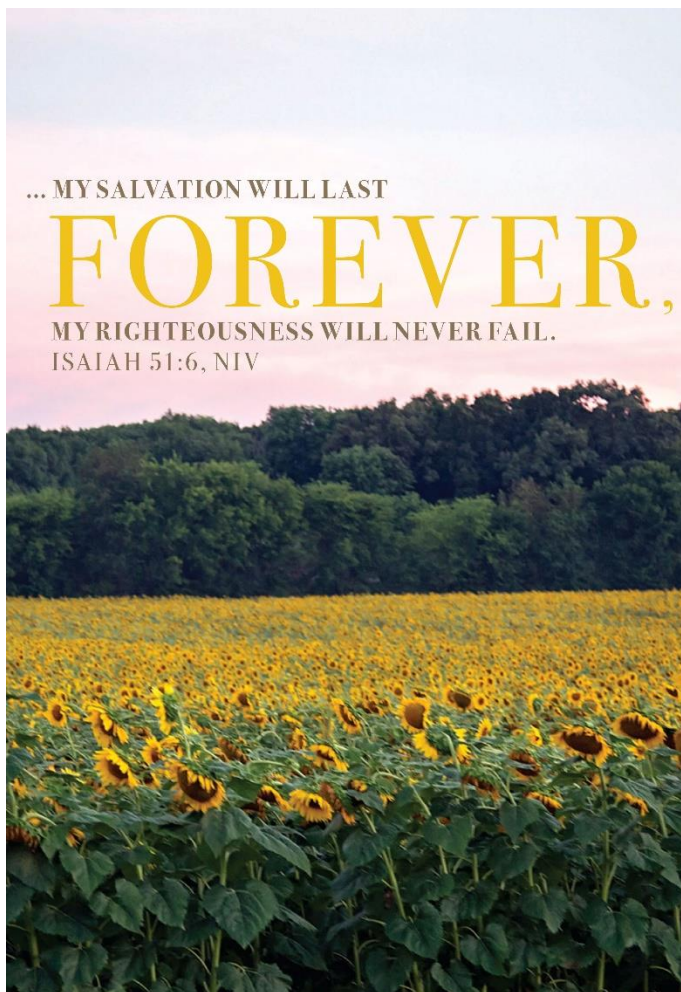


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



510 W. Ottawa Street ▪ Lansing, Michigan 48933

(517) 482-0668 www.lansingfirstpres.com

Facebook – Lansing First Presbyterian

Church Office Hours (M-F) 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 & 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

August 27, 2023 10:00 a.m.
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In order to maintain our worship environment, please turn off your cell phones. Thank you.

PRELUDE

Sergei Kvitko

CALL TO WORSHIP

Richard Blankenship

We gather as the body of Christ.

**We are many individuals,
but together we are one.**

Each of us has our own gifts,
our own calling, our own role,

**but all of us proclaim
Jesus Christ is the Messiah!**

++HYMN #9 [GTG] The Play of the Godhead

This text gives life to the theological term perichoresis, a mutual, encompassing interaction, sometime called "the threefold dance of the Trinity." Stanza two notes various "natural analogies" for the Trinity (steam /water / ice; root / shoot / fruit) that have been found inadequate.

SERVICE OF RENEWAL

Call to Confession

Richard Blankenship

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God,
When faced with earthly powers that seem overwhelming,
we crumble.**

We fear this world.

**We fear losing our status, our stability, our station
more than we fear you.**

**Forgive our shortcomings
and teach us to trust in you**

when we take a risk for what we know is right.

++indicates to stand in body or spirit

Assurance of Pardon

Richard Blankenship

If God was not on our side,
we could not stand in the judgment.
But God is with us, steadfast and faithful,
as we seek to live in peace.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

++Response to Forgiveness

584[GTG]

Gloria

Glory, Glory, Glory

584

Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry be to God on high!
¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, en las al - tu - ras a Dios!

And on earth peace to all peo-ple in whom God is well pleased.
Y en la tie - rra, paz a la gen - te que a - ma el Se - ñor.

TEXT: Based on Luke 2:14; Pablo Sosa, 1989
MUSIC: Pablo Sosa, 1989
Text and Music © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc.

CUEQUITA

++PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Richard Blankenship

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Be still and know that I am God (three times)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ms. Megan

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Richard Blankenship

Faithful God, how blessed are those
who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
Sanctify us by your Word and Spirit
so that we may glorify you
in the company of the faithful;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

Richard Blankenship

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC Romance by Reinhold Gliere - Gwen Botting, horn; Sergei Kvitko, piano

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 12:1-8

Gwen Botting

¹² I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and

individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

SERMON

Is Our God Too Small?

Gwen Botting

++HYMN

#81 [GTG]

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

The Nazi appropriation of this tune for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with this text in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author indicated that this hymn is primarily based on Isaiah 33:20-21 with allusion to several other passages.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prince Solace

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Prayers continue)

Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

AMEN #598 [GTG] Amen, "We Praise Your Name"

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Amen, amen. amen, amen. Amen, we praise your name O God!

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

SPECIAL MUSIC

Uncertainty, by Gwen Botting, horn

Offering

Richard Blankenship

++ Doxology #710[GTG] "We Lift Our Voices"

We Lift Our Voices 710

We Are an Offering

Chords: F, C, F, C, F, C, Dm7, F, C, F, C, F, G7, Em7, Asus A, Dm7, F, G, Esus E, Am, F, C, Bb, Dm, F, C, F, C, Dm7, C

Lyrics:
We lift our voice-es; we lift our hands; we lift our
lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our
voic - es; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our
lives; they are yours: we are an of - fer - ing.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we
give to you, we give to you. We lift our
voic - es; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing; we are an of-fer-ing.

Prayer of Dedication

Richard Blankenship

++HYMN

#493 [GTG]

There Is No Male or Female

Opening with an allusion to Galatians 3:28 and closing with one to John 3:5, this text is filled with specific scriptural phrases related to baptism. It also includes larger themes like the parallels with the deliverance of Israel from slavery through the waters of the Red Sea.

BENEDICTION

Gwen Botting

BLEST BE THE TIE 306[GTG]

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

POSTLUDE

Sergei Kvitko

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MORE LIGHT

PRESBYTERIANS



INFORMATION FOR THE DAY

Participants in this morning's service:

Liturgist	Richard Blankenship
Organist/Pianist	Sergei Kvitko
Director of Music	Megan Higle
Dir. Church Life/Comm. Outreach	Prince Solace
Prayers of the People	Prince Solace
Preaching	Gwen Botting

Rev. Stanley Jenkins is on a sabbatical

Concerns of the congregation:

In care facilities: Jean Dietrich (Story Point of Grand Ledge)
Dianne Rector (Rosewood Adult Foster Care- DeWitt)

CHANCEL FLOWERS TODAY are in honor of the 53rd anniversary of Sam and Kathe Smith.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available.

FLOWER CHART There are many dates available on the chart to celebrate special days in our church family. The new price is \$50. Simply sign up on the chart (in the office hall), indicate the occasion that you would like celebrated or honored (birthday, anniversary or memorial), write a check to the church and give it to Tracy, and we will order for you. If you would like to purchase or provide a silk arrangement for use when we don't have a fresh arrangement scheduled, please see Judy Whitman. Thank you! - Worship Committee.

"YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL TO OUR MISSION! PLEASE SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO GIVE SECURELY ONLINE." Take a picture with your phone and it will take you to the website to make a donation.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, Aug. 27

10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship – Molly Grove Chapel

12:30 p.m.

Victory in Jesus Ministries – Chapel

Monday, Aug. 28

9:00 a.m.

GIL Class

10:00 a.m.

Church staff meeting, library

5:30 p.m.

Yoga – yoga room

6:00 p.m.-9

GIL

Tuesday, Aug. 29

8:00 a.m.-10

Mobile Farmers Market prep – kitchen

6:30 p.m.

Glen Erin Pipe Band Rehearsal – Litten Hall

6:30 p.m.

Capital City Chordsmen – Chapel

Wednesday, Aug. 30

5:30 p.m.

Yoga – Yoga Room

Thursday, Aug. 31

8:00 a.m.-10

Mobile Farmers Market prep – kitchen

7:00 p.m.

Victory in Jesus Bible Study – Library

7:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir loft

Friday, Sept. 1

5:30 p.m.

Yoga – Yoga Room

Saturday, Sept. 2

Sunday, Sept. 3

10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship – Molly Grove Chapel

12:30 p.m.

Victory in Jesus Ministries Worship – chapel

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

School Supplies Collection

Lansing Riddle Elementary School has a teacher who is in need of supplies for his classroom. Here is a wish list of supplies: **New or Used:** Pencils, pens, colored pencils, erasers, paper, journals, index card, folders **Sanitary Items** : Tissue, hand sanitizer, paper towel. Please place items in plastic tote box in the coat closet across from the church parlor.

Handbell choir will be starting rehearsals on Monday, September 11 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome! Contact Darin Showalter for more information.

Are you able to “fill your bucket” when having a conversation with a young person?
Do you like to share God’s love with the “little people” around you?
Do you have 30 minutes on a Sunday morning to help you keep your church-wide baptismal vows?

The Christian Formation Committee is looking for a few people to round out our teacher roster for the 2023/2024 school year for our youngest brothers & sisters. We are only looking for a commitment of anywhere from once per month, to a couple times per year (classes are run from September – May).

Faith Formation happens after service, for approximately 30 minutes. We currently use a “school-house” model (all children between ages of 4 – 11 together).

An overview to a detailed lesson for each week is available. We use the “Growing In God’s Love Story Bible” each week, include a short discussion, a craft, a snack and story-time (we have over 20 books that the kids love to choose from each week!)

PLEASE talk to Megan Higle or Ann Harvey with any questions about how you can be involved! mhigle@lansingfirstpres.org cell phone 248-320-4578

The **Women’s Gathering** is this afternoon at the home of Megan Higle! Theme is “Bare Feet.” Be prepared to take your shoes off!!

Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals Thursday, Aug. 31 from 7-9 p.m. in the choir room. Contact Megan with any questions. (mhigle@lansingfirstpres.org).

BIBLE STUDY resumes on Wednesday September 6th at 10:30 AM, led by **Pastor Bob Higle**. We will meet each week on Wednesdays in our library or by Zoom® as we explore readings from the Revised Common Lectionary.

Each week will include readings from the Old Testament and readings from the Epistles (sometimes Acts) and Gospels. Here is a link to the Revised Common Lectionary: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

In the event you want to join us, but are unable to do so in person, here is the **Zoom link to connect** (Wednesday, September 6 at 10:30 AM):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87896832001?pwd=V2JWJUrN05sMkhIRGNVbVkJ3MHI6QT09>

A church wide email will be sent out on Monday prior outlining the readings. We will finalize our readings when we gather each Wednesday. All are welcome!

ACT UGANDA's 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION! ACT is celebrating 20 years of working with our partners in Uganda, and your congregation has been a big part of this journey. Join us at one of our two fundraising dinners in Midland (Sept 8) or Traverse City (Sept 16) where you will enjoy a Ugandan-inspired dinner, gift basket raffle, video messages from our Ugandan partners, an overview of accomplishments, and an update on where we are headed. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased by contacting Sue Waechter at waechtersue@gmail.com. To learn more about ACT, visit actuganda.org. **Please join us to celebrate this exciting milestone!**

ADULT FORUM

(11:15-12:15 in Litten Hall downstairs or on zoom)
(Childcare is available through this time.)

SEPTEMBER 10

Tailgate Sunday: Join the fun, food and fellowship with your church friends!
~~~ Adult Forum new program year begins ~~~

## SEPTEMBER 17

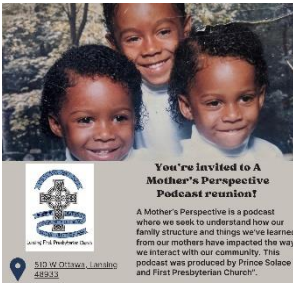
### WHAT SENSE CAN WE MAKE OF OUR POLITICS TODAY AND NEXT YEAR?

Even though we are a year and a couple of months out from the presidential election, many are scrambling to make sense of the current political scene. Everyone has a view, even if that is inattention, or confusion. What role will you play in the upcoming debate? How much will other Christians of various stripes help determine the outcome? Studies show, e.g., that the MAGA movement draws its strength from those who are less inclined to attend church or call themselves believers.

**Charlie Herrick** will lead a free-for-all discussion on how and why things are shaping up for both (or more than two?) parties in 2024. Come and add your voice!

## SEPTEMBER 24

### PODCAST REUNION – A MOTHER’S PERSPECTIVE



“A Mother's Perspective” is a podcast where we seek to understand how our family structure and things we've learned from our mothers have impacted the way we interact with our community.

In this session we will hear from members of our congregation and local community as they reflect on the influences of motherhood.

## OCTOBER 1

### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.

It's time for our traditional **potluck**. Plan to come and bring a dish from your heritage or a family favorite. (No Adult Forum)