



MAY 25, 2025

Sixth Sunday of Eastertide

Whether you are a member or a visitor, whether you are in person or online\*, we hope you will sense God's presence and be open to God's blessing through the service we share this morning.

Children's bulletins and large-print Orders of Worship are available from our ushers. Our nursery, with attendant Taylor Stout, is available for infants and toddlers at the Aurelius Road entrance.

The asterisk (\*) is an invitation for the congregation to stand, in body or spirit, as you are able. **Bold type indicates a congregational response in unison.**

As you enter the Sanctuary or look at the links beneath the YouTube window, you will find opportunities to submit a prayer request to be shared by the pastor during the "Prayers of the Community of Faith." Alternatively, you may personally voice your prayer request at that time or type it into the chat window on YouTube.

*\*During the livestream service, our cameras can capture almost every person in the sanctuary. If you would prefer to stay out of the camera's eye, you're encouraged to sit in the back pews on the pulpit side of the sanctuary.*

First Presbyterian Church of Holt | 2021 Aurelius Road | Holt, MI | [www.fpc-holt.org](http://www.fpc-holt.org)

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

### PREPARATION

“Christian faith needs continuous maintenance. If you leave a thing alone, you leave it to a torrent of change. Leave a white post alone and soon it will be a black post.”

--G. K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*

### GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kirk Miller

### PRELUDE

Meditation on Hymn Tune “Melita”

arr. Robert J. Powell  
Joanne Maher, Organist

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ellen Parrott, Liturgist

Jesus Christ, Lord of our hearts, you know our thirst:

**Lead us to the wellspring of your gospel.**

Jesus Christ, light of the world, the image of God shines in all that you say and do:

**Enable us to discern your presence in each person.**

Jesus Christ, friend of the poor and outcast:

**Open the gates of simplicity so that we can welcome you.**

Holy God—Father, Son and Spirit -

**Show us the way to walk toward Your kingdom.**

### \*HYMN #8

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**God of our life, there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down; when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies grey and threatening; days when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. Have mercy on us, Lord, when we leave undone those things which we ought to do; and when we do those things which we ought not to do.**

*(silence for personal confession)*

### \*KYRIE

Iona

*Translation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Grant us peace.*

### \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

### \*RESPONSE #436, v. 1

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you,  
**and also with you.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

RESPONSE #486, v. 4

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

*Following the Children's Sermon, children are invited to return to their seats.*

*For the youngest among us, childcare is available in the nursery.*

SCRIPTURE READING

John 5:2-17, 21

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Wade in the Water”

Rev. Dr. Rob Carlson

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *African Church of Kenya, 1978*

**We believe in the One High God, who out of love  
created the beautiful world and everything good in it.**

**God loves the world and every nation and tribe on earth.**

**We have known this High God in the darkness, and now we know Him in the light.**

**God promised to save the world and all the nations and tribes.**

**We believe that God made good His promise by sending His son, Jesus Christ,  
a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village,**

**who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of  
God, teaching about God, showing that the meaning of religion is love.**

**He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died.**

**He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him;**

**and on the third day, he rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.**

**We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him. All who have faith in him must be  
sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love, and  
share the bread together in love, and so announce the good news to others until Jesus  
comes again.**

**We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.**

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

*Please use this QR code or visit [www.fpc-bolt.org/stewardship](http://www.fpc-bolt.org/stewardship) for safe, convenient online giving.*

OFFERTORY

Echo on “Nettleton”

arr. Marianne Kim

\*RESPONSE #475, v. 3

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our 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.

## WE TAKE GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN #691, v. 1-3                      Lord, When I Came into This Life

\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE #691, v. 4                      Lord, When I Came into This Life

\*POSTLUDE                                      “Joy”                      arr. Roberta Rowland-Raybold



We give thanks to God for our ushers (Ken Hoffman, Jan Hoffman),  
livestream production crew (Ken Caron, John Joss, Don Parry),  
and for our pastors, Rev. Kirk Miller and Rev. Dr. Rob Carlson.



# THE CHANIER



### Ongoing Prayer Concerns

- Bev Stewart
- Nevin Johnson, Betts' grandson with chronic kidney disease
- Priscilla Krohnke & BK Gopal
- Wilma & Jayna Akright
- Tanya Olson
- Bill and Nancy Brock
- Anita Betts' daughter and son-in-law (Robin & Kevin) - Kevin's lymphoma is in remission; continued prayers
- Steve Weinberger
- Paul Schmidt
- Rhonda Bryan, Kamryn Shumway's mother
- Phil Bennett
- Brionna Hornus, and her son, Evren, who is in the NICU at Sparrow Hospital
- John Sklar
- George Friday, nephew of Gary and Marcia Howe, has been hospitalized for the same genetic disease which afflicted Gary—Aortic Dissection of the vascular system—which produces aneurysms anywhere along the aortic vascular system

### Prayers from the Pew and Chat Panel

- Josh Horwath and family on the death of his dad, Rob Horwath

- Thanksgiving that Kirk is feeling better and in church today
- Ciney, Steve, Harry, Ken and Larry
- Comfort for Phil Bennett
- Brandon's colleague and for someone in hospital
- Ruth Hinkle and her family—her niece's funeral is on Friday
- Julie's niece with significant health issues
- Julie's friend, recovering from an amputation
- Paula's loved ones grieving her death
- Prayers for all at Advent House as we prepare and serve a meal there today
- Brian Lloyd's supervisor who is undergoing multiple surgeries and cancer treatment
- Brian Lloyd's brother-in-law, Bill, diagnosed with cancer
- Thanksgiving for Logan Carr's birthday
- Thanksgiving for all involved in Friday's Hope in Action, and for our community
- Praise that Esther Watrous's partner Annette's surgery went well, and prayers for healing
- Thanksgiving for Mira Choi and her service to our church with her beautiful music
- Thanksgiving that Evren may be coming home this week
- The Jumper family, as Audra's aunt died yesterday
- People who are disabled, have mental health issues or autism, and waiting on decision from the government—let them be treated with respect and dignity
- Matt Hill, whose illness flared up; prayers for the medical team to help him

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## ***“Celebrating the Spirit”***

The Spirit is spilling out on the streets! Help us brighten our church grounds on Pentecost (June 8) by purchasing a geranium (or four!) which will be planted for the whole community to enjoy! Each flower is a symbol of the Spirit alive and blooming in our congregation, and we're planting 114 of them! Cost is \$7/plant or \$25 for four.

For Pentecost (unlike our Christmas and Easter floral contributions), all gifts will be anonymous, but all who purchase a plant are encouraged to provide the name of someone in our church family in whom they have seen the Spirit at work. Complete this order form or scan the QR code to order online.

**Deadline is Sunday, June 1** and we'll celebrate our list of Spirit-filled friends on Pentecost Sunday, June 8.

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ red geranium(s) at \$7.00 each, or 4 for \$25.00

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Spirit-filled person(s) you would like to celebrate (one per plant):

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_





# Grace for the Journey and Grace Upon Grace

Grieving the loss. Healing together.

There is a specific kind of pain that comes with the loss of a spouse or significant other. Widows become part of a sisterhood, bound together by a common experience of loss that is yet as unique as the relationship from which it arose.

Those who are recently widowed are invited to join "Grace for the Journey" which will meet **Tuesday, May 27, at 12 noon**, to share stories, support, encouragement and compassion with women who can meet you where you are.

Next meetings:  
5/27 Grace for  
the Journey  
5/27 Grace  
Upon Grace

For any who are less recent widows and would welcome continued support, there's a new group, "Grace Upon Grace," which will meet **Tuesday, May 27, at 6 PM**. Please contact Beth Byerley, [bethbyerley@gmail.com](mailto:bethbyerley@gmail.com), with any questions.



Very Important  
Presbyterian Seniors

**Admit All  
FPC-Holt Seniors  
55-ish and up**

Tours, Lunches, Study,  
Fellowship & more!



Join your V.I.P.S. friends and Rev.  
Miller at 12 noon on Wednesday, May 28  
for our annual picnic!  
(RSVP please, 517-694-8151.)

If you would like more information about the V.I.P.S. program, please call Jan Babcock, 517-930-4809, Deb Bachman, 517-525-1194, or the church office, 517-694-8151.



# CONGRATULATIONS

## *Class of 2025*

We're celebrating your accomplishments (high school, undergrad, trades, advanced degrees) on Sunday, June 1 during our 10 AM worship service.

*Last call to send in your bio!!*

We'd love to include details about our grads - what you've accomplished and where you're going next.

Please follow the QR code to our bio form, fill in as much information as you'd like to share, and then let us know whether you'll be here on June 1.

Your senior or graduation photo would be great too!



### **Shaft Scholarship Available**

If you're a soon-to-be graduate from high school and entering a college program, you are eligible for a Shaft scholarship. These monies, made possible by the family of Cassius Shaft, are awarded based on a review of your application letter. If you would like to apply, please send a letter to the Congregational Life Committee (via the office) that expresses why you should be considered and what your future plans are.

**Letters are due by May 31.**

ATTN FOYOS: 1PM SATURDAY, JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>



LET'S GET THE SUMMER STARTED  
OFF RIGHT, PURE MICHIGAN STYLE!  
COME FOR A DAY AT THE LAKE!

JOIN US FOR BOAT RIDES, TUBING (FOR KIDS & ADULTS, TOO!), BONFIRE, SWIMMING + A NICE SHALLOW AREA FOR THE YOUNGEST AMONG US TO PLAY SAFELY IN THE WATER!

MAKE SURE TO BRING SWIMSUITS, TOWELS, WATER SHOES IF YOU HAVE THEM, SUNSCREEN, DRINKS FOR YOUR FAMILY + A SIDE DISH, DESSERT, OR SNACK TO SHARE. HOT DOGS, BRATS & WATER WILL BE PROVIDED FOR DINNER.

TURNER COTTAGE IS ABOUT 45 MINS FROM HOLT.

4426 HOMEWILD DRIVE, GREGORY, MI 48137

(SMALL & RUSTIC BUT WITH FULL AMENITIES)

PLEASE RSVP TO ALLISON @ (517) 525-7075

## Getting ready for Babylon!

VBS will be held July 13-17, 2025, and we're going to take our kids to Babylon! They'll experience a thriving marketplace and learn about how God's love was still with Daniel even in exile.



To help us get ready, come by the church on Wednesday, June 11th, anytime from 6:00-9:00 PM, to help make signs, decorations, and everything else we need to take our kids on a wild and faith-filled journey. Stay for all or part of the evening.





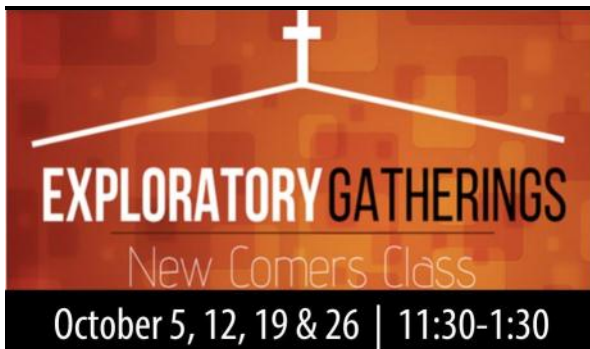
- 1 Lisa Horwath
- 2 Austin Shumway
- 3 Jayna Akright  
John Zdankiewicz
- 4 Joseph Heilman  
Libbey Merrill  
Aaron Andrews
- 6 Connie Caron
- 7 Andrew Rathbun  
Steve Pingston
- 8 Steven Gleason
- 10 Philip Gamber
- 11 Chris Larson  
Kyle Hoffman  
Monica Drolett
- 14 Megan Lloyd  
Meghan Andrews

- 15 Eric Carlson
- 16 Tom Parks
- 17 Jonathan Hetrick  
Madison Evans
- 19 Damon Bolden
- 20 Levi Turner  
Wilma Akright
- 21 Beth Gleason
- 22 Jared Andrews
- 23 Brian Hetrick  
Denise Kassa
- 24 Barry Crassweller
- 25 Alexander Knapman
- 28 Cora Caron
- 30 Brandon Grafius  
Brogan Sutterlin  
Joel Spitz



- 13 Don & Ann Parry
- 18 Jeremiah & Kamryn  
Shumway
- 19 Bob & Marcia Larsen
- 20 Carol & Allen Evans  
Roger & Diana Stubig
- 22 Anissa & Thomas Vanliew
- 27 Brian & Megan Lloyd

***If you have a June birthday or anniversary that is not listed, please let the church office know ([office@fpc-holt.org](mailto:office@fpc-holt.org)) so we can update our records. Thanks!***



If you'd like to explore what it means to be part of the Reformed Tradition, Presbyterian denomination, and the body of Christ here at FPC-Holt, and would like to consider membership, plan to attend these classes.

Lunch is served and children are welcome. Class dates are October 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 11:30-1:30, with prospective members joining the church during worship on All Saints Sunday, November 2. Please call the church office or scan the QR code to let us know your interest.





**Time is running out  
to register for  
Summer Camp!**

Of special note—Heather Thum-Gerber will be camp chaplain during the week of June 22-27!!! Camps being offered that week:

**6/22/25 4 pm—6/27/25 4 pm**

**Wacky Water Week (ages 9-13)** Every day is filled with different ways to play and learn in the water! Cost: \$425\*

**Science Snoops (ages 9-13)** Science Snoops combines all the fun of summer camp with ways to investigate, build, learn and create in our environment! Cost: \$425\*



Follow the QR code to register! \*Financial assistance/full scholarships are available, but limited. Contact church office for info!

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***Thank you for helping our youth  
raise over \$700 in one night  
by returning your cans and bottles!***

**REFUNDABLE  
BOTTLE & CAN DRIVE**

***Help send a youth on a mission trip or ministry activity -  
bring in your empties to start filling up the trailer again!***

# LIVE STREAM OUTREACH



**Volunteers are needed for:**  
**production • • • cameras • • • sound**  
**(we will train!)**

If you have a gift for technology or an eye for artistry,  
we'd love to talk with you!

Please speak with Ken Caron or Rev. Miller

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We all enjoy a “good” scent. Unfortunately, some perfumes, aftershaves, and colognes are very strong. You may not realize just how strong they are because you're used to them. Even though it's not unpleasant, some members of our congregation are quite sensitive, and even allergic, to the ingredients in these products. This causes them discomfort, or more severe symptoms such as headaches, coughing, and sneezing. When making fragrance choices, please consider all who worship or attend events at FPC-Holt. ***Thank you!***

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## Medical Equipment Lending Closet

In this ministry, overseen by the FPC-Holt Deacons, we accept select pieces of durable medical equipment—wheelchairs, walkers, shower stools, commodes, canes, etc.—and then offer it free of charge to anyone in the community who needs it.

***We have limited storage space available; please contact the church office before bringing in any donations.***



# This Week at FPC-Holt

<b>Sunday</b>	May 25	10:00am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Livestream
Memorial Day		11:00am	FPC-Holt Church Family Fellowship Time
Weekend		6:30pm	AA
<b>Monday</b>	May 26	12noon	Bible Study
<b>Tuesday</b>	May 27	6:15pm	Sparrow's Nest
		6:00pm	Grace Upon Grace
		8:00pm	AA
<b>Wednesday</b>	May 28	10:00am	Staff Meeting
		12noon	VIPS Pastor's Picnic
		6:00pm	Deacons
		6:30pm	AA
<b>Thursday</b>	May 29	8:00pm	AA
<b>Saturday</b>	May 31	6:00pm	AA
<b>Sunday</b>	June 1	8:30am	Graduate Breakfast
Graduation		10:00am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Livestream
Sunday		11:00am	FPC-Holt Church Family Fellowship Time
		6:30pm	AA



## ORDER OF THE BLADE

FPC-HOLT OPERATIONS  
GROUND CREW

Mark Maher is mowing the church grounds (Thank you, Mark!), but he could use some help with the trimming. If you have time once a week and might be available, please talk to Ken Hoffman.