



AUGUST 24, 2025

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Brandon Grafius

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kirk Miller

CENTERING VIDEO

“Beautiful”

Christina Aguilera

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Creator God, Maker of dreams, draw us into your presence.

**As if we were dreaming, we awaken our hearts to your power.**

Jesus Christ, you are the answer to our deepest dreams.

**As if we were dreaming, we hear your call to new life in your name.**

Holy Spirit, Giver of dreams, breathe your breath upon us here.

**As if we were dreaming, we sense your presence in this place.**

We feel an energy, an excitement and a surge of wonder that cannot be denied.

**As if we were dreaming, we can hardly believe we are here worshiping you, O God, in the wonder of this moment! Fill us anew with the power of your Spirit!**

\*HYMN

Come As You Are

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Lord, we admit that while we were created in your image we can, at the same time, be so beautiful and so ugly. There are so many times in our lives in which we have alienated others or felt alienated ourselves, when we have felt downtrodden or walked all over others, when we have felt alone or excluded others. We can be just as good at wallowing in our misery as we are in making others miserable. We whine about all the perceived injustices that have been heaped upon us, just as we pile injustice on others.

Forgive us God. Encourage us to stand strong; to seek your blessings; to recognize the many ways that you are with us, giving us courage and grace. Guide our lives. As we bring prayers before you for those near and dear to us, seeking healing and hope for them; help us to remember that those same mercies are lavished upon us, not because we deserve them, but because of your great and generous love for us. Help us receive these blessings and, in turn, be a blessing to someone else. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

*(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

My Lighthouse

\*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 #188

Jesus Loves You!

*Following the Children's Sermon, children are invited to return to their seats.  
For the youngest among us, child care is available in the nursery.*

SCRIPTURE AND INTERPRETATION

"Spiritual Sweat and Lakeside Dreams"  
2025 Youth in Action Mission Trip/Triennium

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 121

Kalin Gleason

Congregational Response:

**I lift my eyes to the hills  
From where does my help come?  
It comes from God who made heaven and earth  
And the love we share from within.**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

POETRY

"From Where Does My Help Come?"

Brianna Rupert

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 2:1-21

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

POETRY

"Kindness"

Annalee Mroczek

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

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

"He Reigns"

\*RESPONSE *from the 2025 Presbyterian Youth Triennium*

**Pulpit side:** For each child that's born, a morning star rises and sings to the universe who we are:

**Piano side:** We are our grandmother's prayers, we are our grandfather's dreamings,

**All:** We are the breath of the ancestors, we are the Spirit of God,

**Pulpit side:** We are Mothers of courage, Fathers of time, Daughters of dust, Sons of great visions,

**Piano side:** We are sisters of mercy, Brothers of love, Lovers of life and the builders of nations,

**Pulpit side:** We're seekers of truth, And keepers of faith,

**Piano side:** We're makers of peace, wisdom of ages,

**All:** We are the breath of the ancestors, we are the Spirit of God!

## PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND 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

\*SENDING SONG

Beautiful Things

\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE chorus (sung twice)

Light the Fire

**Light the fire in my soul.**

**Fan the flames, make me whole**

**Lord, You know where I've been**

**So light the fire in my heart again**

\*POSTLUDE



We give thanks to God for our ushers (Jeff Cwiek, Linda Cwiek, Ron Hope),  
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
- Phil Bennett
- John Sklar
- John Holmstrom, diagnosed with bone cancer and awaiting surgery in October
- Marcia Howe, with ongoing health concerns

#### **Prayers from the Pew and Online Chat**

- Support for John Holmstrom as he faces ongoing health issues
  - Peace and healing after a trauma experienced earlier this week
  - Thanksgiving for good news regarding Mark Maher's sisters and their cancer treatments
  - Sharon Purdy's son, who has been diagnosed with stomach cancer
  - Wholeness for Jesus Miguel
  - Sienna and a friend who are facing health issues
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# **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY TRAINING**

(required every three years)



**In Person: this morning after worship**

**(around 11:30 AM)** in the Hospitality Room

**Zoom: Tuesday, August 26 at 7:00 PM**

(contact the church office for the Zoom link)

If you are planning to volunteer for WaterWorks!, Sycamore mentoring, or work with our children or youth in any capacity, you must attend Child Protection Policy Training once every three years.

If you are unsure about your training status or have any questions, please contact Kara Fisher or the church office.

# LIVE STREAM OUTREACH



**Join us today for lunch and training as we prepare to kick off the program year!**

Meet in Fellowship Hall

this morning from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

For more details on this important ministry!

Questions? See Ken Caron or Rev. Miller.

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## 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” meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, at 12 noon, to share stories, support, encouragement and compassion with women who can meet you where you are.

For any who are less recent widows and would welcome continued support, the group, “Grace Upon Grace,” meets 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, at 6 PM. Please contact Beth Byerley, [bethbyerley@gmail.com](mailto:bethbyerley@gmail.com), with any questions.

Next meetings:  
8/26 Grace for  
the Journey  
8/26 Grace  
Upon Grace



# CHOIR & HANDBELL REHEARSAL TIMES:

Handbells (ROK)

THURSDAYS AT 6 PM  
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 4



Chancel Choir

THURSDAYS AT 7 PM



AMANDA GOLDBERG, RINGERS OF THE KIRK AND CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

GOT A PASSION FOR MUSIC? TIME TO SHARE!

SPEAK WITH AMANDA, REV. KIRK, OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE DETAILS.

## We're delivering SWEETS & SNACKS to the Sycamore Elementary Teachers on September 2!

We'd love to have any of the following:



Cookies



Muffins



Brownies



Cupcakes



Granola Bars



Energy Bars



or other munchables!

Some gluten-free snacks would be great, too! Please bring items to the FPC-Holt kitchen no later than Sunday, August 31.

Sycamore has about 50 staff members -

we're hoping for a variety of 10 dozen+ treats.

Make sure anything you bring will keep, since we won't be delivering until September 2.

Questions? Please contact Anne Hope, 517-896-3967.

Thank you for encouraging and supporting the Sycamore Staff!





WaterWorks is a truly unique and creative approach to guiding kids grades K-4 as they discover God's love for them.

### **It's also really fun!!**

Following the Children's Sermon and using a workshop rotation model, kids focus on one particular Bible story or character on three

successive Sundays. Each Sunday allows different learning styles to experience the lesson in ways that are most meaningful to them (kinesthetic, auditory, visual, tactile, etc.)

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**Mid-Highs (grades 5-8)** are part of the fun too - with their own developmentally appropriate exploration into the Bible...with just as much meaning and just as much joy.

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**Follow the QR code to register your child or youth for Sunday church school!**





**MHYC & YIA  
KICK-OFF  
LOCK-IN**

**Friday, Sept. 12 -  
Saturday, Sept. 13  
6 PM - 9 AM**

Follow the QR code for  
details and to register!



**MHYC - Grades 5-8; YIA - Grades 9-12**

**MHYC & YIA  
PRESBYTERY-WIDE  
ALL Y'ALL  
YOUTH MEET UP**

**@ FPC-Hastings!  
Sunday, Sept. 21  
Depart: 4 PM  
Return: 9 PM**

Follow the QR code  
for details and to register!



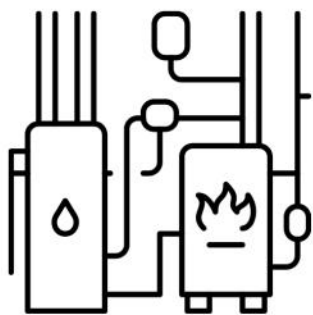
**Triple your donation to the Holt Community Food Bank!**

**Give \$10 to the Simply Give campaign,  
and the Holt Community Food Bank receives \$30!**

To make it simple to Simply Give, just follow the QR code to let us know how many \$10 cards you would like to purchase. You have the option to follow the link in the form to donate online, or bring your cash or check to the church office by September 10. We'll drive down to Mason and make one HUGE purchase at Meijer on September 13 for a TRIPLE-HUGE donation to the HCFB!

(please write "Simply Give" on your check memo line or in the description if giving through our secure website)





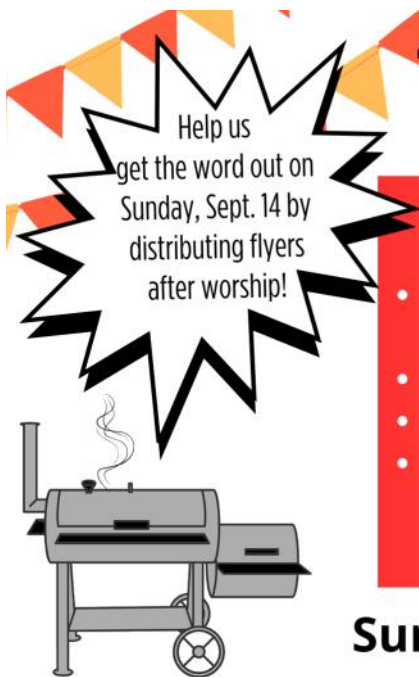
# building & HVAC tours

## September 7 & 14

Right after worship!

You've heard about our aging boiler situation. We're going to need everyone's help to fix it! Eventually, all will be asked to contribute financially to the effort, but first we need your input. Join us on September 7 or 14 immediately after worship to hear and see for yourself (tours available/encouraged) the what, the why, the magnitude and the options that are before the session. Our Elders will be present to hear suggestions and concerns as they prepare to vote on the best path forward at their September meeting .

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## 4TH ANNUAL FPC-HOLT SMOKE OFF!

We're sharing the love and joy of Christ  
with our neighbors!

- Want to bring your smoker and be part of Team Smoke?
  - What sides or desserts can you bring?
  - Can you help set-up or serve?
  - Assist with the photo booth or bounce house for ½ an hour?
- Follow the QR code to sign up!



**Sunday, Sept. 21 - 12:00 - 2:00 pm**



# SEPTEMBER

*birthdays*



# SEPTEMBER

*anniversaries*

1 Sandra Diorka Heather Case	17 Bud Bachman	4 Ken & Connie Caron
2 Nancy Corner Tim Turner	19 Leo Holmes	5 Andrew & Nancy Corner
3 Matt Hill	21 Flor Fratzke	9 Allison & Joshua Bodell
4 Natalie Hoffman	22 Christine Heilman	10 Lee & Sharon Parks
9 Heh Say	23 Rick Downs Maddyn Shumway	April & Elizabeth Yeager Eric & Carrie Carlson
10 Andre Hoffmann Elizabeth Kohn	24 Corey Clark	17 Kelly Ann & Lee Ireland
12 India Wooten	25 Noah Verstraete Trudy Smith	20 Dave & Amy Metts
13 Noella Verdugo Debra Bachman	27 Ken Caron	26 Jeff & Linda Czwiek
14 Alec Stout	28 Peter Verstraete	30 James & Kristin Lindeen Kevin & Emily Carlson
15 Ray Rustem	29 Olivia Olney	
16 Kari Bell Sydney Evans	30 Bev Stewart	

**EXPLORATORY GATHERINGS**  
Newcomers Class  
October 5, 12, 19 & 26 | 11:30-1:30

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 Sunday, November 9. Please call the church office or scan the QR code to let us know your interest.



# This Week at FPC-Holt

<b>Sunday</b>	Aug 24	10:00am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Livestream
		11:00am	FPC-Holt Church Family Fellowship Time
		11:30am	Tech Team Appreciation Lunch
		1:00pm	Sewing Group
		2:00pm	Capital Campaign Committee
		6:00pm	AA
<b>Monday</b>	Aug 25	12noon	Bible Study
		6:30pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry
<b>Tuesday</b>	Aug 26	10:00am	Staff Meeting
		12 noon	Grace for the Journey
		6:00pm	Grace Upon Grace
		6:15pm	Sparrow's Nest
		8:00pm	AA
<b>Wednesday</b>	Aug 27	6:30pm	AA
<b>Thursday</b>	Aug 28	7:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
		8:00pm	AA
<b>Saturday</b>	Aug 23	6:00pm	AA
<b>Sunday</b>	Aug 31	10:00am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and on Livestream; Holy
<i>Labor Day</i>			Communion; Making Change for Jesus
<i>Weekend</i>		11:00am	FPC-Holt Church Family Fellowship Time
		6:30pm	AA

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Rev. Miller will be away for reading week from August 25-August 31.  
For pastoral concerns, please contact Rev. Carlson.