

## Ordination and Installation of Officers

Deacons to be Installed: Beverly Fall and Carol Ringenberg

Deacons to be Ordained & Installed: Sue Hayes and Sheryl Sanford

Elder to be Installed: Gregg Patten

## Prayers of God's People and 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**Our Tithes and Offerings**    "*O God, Mark All My Sighs*"

\*The Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn                    "*Jesus, Come! For We Invite You*"

Gottfried Walther

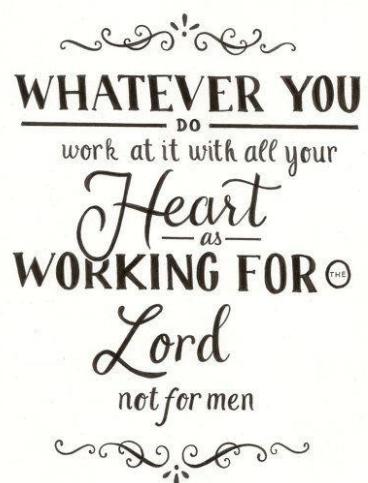
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\*Benediction

Postlude                "*From God Shall Naught Divide Me*"

Gottfried Walther



*Colossians 3:23*

# ***The First Presbyterian Church***

***Organized July 22, 1843***



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*Called by God into the joy of new life in Christ,  
First Presbyterian Church of Hillsdale  
seeks to live together faithfully,  
committing ourselves to a life of worship,  
mutual encouragement to growth in faith and knowledge,  
and to the proclamation of the Gospel.*



31 North Street  
Hillsdale, Michigan 49242  
(517)-437-2580

***Sunday, January 4, 2026***

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 4, 2026

\*Congregation May Stand

10:30 a.m. Worship

## Prelude

*"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"*

Gottfried Walther

## Welcome and Announcements

James Brandon

## \*Call to Worship

Psalm 146:1-2

## Invocation

## \*Hymn

*"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

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## \*Responsive Reading:

Psalm 147:7-14

Leader: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God upon the lyre!

People: **He covers the heavens with clouds,  
He prepares rain for the earth,  
He makes grass grow upon the hills.**

Leader: He gives to the beasts their food,  
and to the young ravens which cry.

People: **His delight is not in the strength of the horse,  
nor His pleasure in the legs of a man;**

Leader: But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him,  
in those who hope in His steadfast love.

People: **Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!**

Leader: For He strengthens the bars of your gates;  
He blesses your sons within you.

All: **He makes peace in your borders;  
He fills you with the finest of the wheat.**

**Prayer of Confession:** *Adapted from When We Gather*

*(unison)*

Source of salvation and Bringer of light, we fail to sense the mystery of Your love. We bear grudges against our neighbors, while it is Your nature to forgive. We hold tightly to our possessions, while Christ blesses the poor. In Him You have spoken peace, yet we live in turmoil. We care too little for our community, where You have placed us in Your wisdom. In mercy forgive us, and help us to amend our ways.

**Silent Confession** *(continue in silent prayer)*

....Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

**\*The Gloria Patri**

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**Children's Sermon**

Pastor Scott Cress

**First Scripture Lesson**

Ephesians 1:3-14

Pew Bible Page #1017

**Piano Solo**

*"Nocturne in C# minor"*

Frederic Chopin

**Second Scripture Lesson**

Genesis 29:31-35

Pew Bible Page #24

**Sermon**

Christmas with Leah

Pastor Scott Cress

**\*Hymn**

*"Great is Thy Faithfulness"*

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**\*Affirmation of Faith**

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions 24 & 25

Question: How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

**Answer:** Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by His Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Question: How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

**Answer:** Christ executeth the office of a priest, in His once offering up of Himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## Today, January 4 ~ Ordination & Installation of Officers

8:30 a.m. NO Choir Practice or Sunday School  
10:20 a.m. Pre-Service Prayer, Chapel  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

## Monday, January 5

## Tuesday, January 6

## Wednesday, January 7

## Thursday, January 8

9:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Anniversary Room  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Meeting, Anniversary Room  
4:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting, Anniversary Room

## Friday, January 9

## Saturday, January 10

## Next Sunday, January 11 ~ Communion

8:30 a.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary  
9:40 a.m. Sunday School, Classrooms  
10:20 a.m. Pre-Service Prayer, Chapel  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

## USHER SCHEDULE

**January 11:** Nancy Ashton, Sheryl Sanford and Andrew Root  
**January 18:** Vida Long, Tom Fink and Marty Games  
**January 25:** Bev & Larry Fall and Sheryl Sanford  
**February 1:** Laureen Kimbrough and Faye & Steve Ross  
**February 8:** Tom Fink, Patti Péwé and Carol Ringenberg

# WELCOME

Welcome to worship the first Sunday of the New Year! As we worship God together, let us pray for a fruitful year of ministry to the glory of His name.

**A SPECIAL WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS** worshiping with us this morning. We ask that you please include your name and address when filling out the Friendship Pads and pass the pad along the pew so others may do the same. After everyone has registered, send the pad back along the pew so you can learn the names of those sitting with you.  
Attendance Last Sunday:

**The ALTAR FLOWERS** are graciously given today by Nancy and Dan Ashton in honor of Epiphany--how baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world!

**PASTOR:** Rev. Scott Cress  
**CHOIR/ORGANIST:** Dean James  
**WORSHIP LEADER:** James Brandon  
**BUILDING CLOSER:** Steve Ross  
**DEACON:** Earla Carver  
**USHERS:** Ruth Brown, Tom Fink, and Doug French

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Don Sanderson and Warren Schneider

**CONTINUING PRAYER REQUESTS:** Aiden James Weigle (*Great Grandson Bev & Larry Fall*), Sarah Price (*Daughter Bill Barron*), Marlene Risedorph (*Wife Stuart*), Don Sanderson (*Husband Mary*), Seymore Wright (*Brother Linda Bearman*), Barbara Craine & Susan Wilson (*Sisters C.Hoffman*), Nancy Leutheuser, Andre Portteus (*Kevin's Father*), Tom Osborn (*Betty's Brother-in-law*), Charles Cress (*Pastor's Father*), Norma Baldwin, Melinda Foulke-Beckwith, Carissa Benavides, Jack Bowles (*Cousin Vida*), Keith Brown (*Friend H.Wood*), Elizabeth Burke (*Friend Betty Kneen*), Kimberly Burlew, Rosie Dryer (*Friend S.Kinney*), Kevin & Bridget Fowler (*Parents B.Portteus*), Maxine & George Gaffney & Snookie Ham (*Friends B.Kneen*), Sheila Hall (*Friend C.Erholtz*), Ashley Hightower, Robert Jones (*Irma's Husband*), Shirley McIntyre, JoAnne Rollins (*Sister-in-law M.Rollins*), John Scott (*Friend C.Ringenberg*), Lois Shrock, Theresa Tomas (*Friend C.Erholtz*), Laura VanWormer (*Friend L.Fogarty*), Amy Wright, and Elijah Wright (*Son Karen Lagasee-Wright*); **PRAY FOR MILITARY:** LT. Andrea Cornett (*USN*); First Lieutenant Spencer Eves (*USN-Grandson Judy & Ron Adams*); LT. Col. Garron Garn (*US Marines*), Commander Zachary Laden (*US Navy—Grandson B.Taylor*), Major Ben Larson (*Nat'l Guard--Grandson C.Dear*); Army First Lt. Cheryl Jackson (*Schneiders' granddaughter in Kosovo*), and LT. Sydney Rouble (*USN RN—Granddaughter Bishers*); **PRAY FOR MISSIONS:** Helping Hands, Lingap Children's Foundation, Love Inc, Samaritan's Purse, and Share the Warmth; **PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS:** Diane Eames, and Warren Schneider

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DURING TODAY'S SERVICE**, we will be installing and ordaining our new Deacons Beverly Fall, Sue Hayes, Carol Ringenberg, and Sheryl Sanford and Elder Gregg Patten for the Class of 2028. Unfortunately, Marsha Rollins is out-of-town and will have to be installed at a later date. We congratulate and thank these people for their willingness to serve the First Presbyterian Church!

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIPS: ARE YOU ABLE TO HOST?** Before and after Sunday morning worship, we enjoy conversation and coffee. Please consider signing up to serve coffee on Sundays at our weekly Coffee Fellowships for 2025. Sign up today in kitchen! This is your chance to serve and give back!

**DEACONS MEETING (January 8):** There will be a Deacons Meeting this Thursday, January 8th at 4:00 PM in the Anniversary Room.

**FELLOWSHIP MEETING (January 8):** The Fellowship Committee will also be meeting this Thursday, January 8th at 10:00 AM in the Anniversary Room.

**FOOD COLLECTION: YOU CAN HELP FEED THOSE IN NEED!** The Mission Committee continues a weekly food collection of perishable and non-perishable items that will be given to the Father's Table Food Pantry, King's Cupboard, and Salvation Army. Why wait when the need is great and you can help today? Help feed the hungry by filling the collection bins inside the entrance doors with your donations. We are incredibly grateful for all that you give and thank you!

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY (January 8):** Our Men's Bible study has been on break since December. We will come back together January 8 to feast on God's Word and we recommit to studying together!

**NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026**, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in worship. All who trust in Christ are invited to participate. **NOTE:** If you would prefer to use the pre-packaged communion cups, please retrieve the elements at the back table before the service begins. Please remember that the *loose offering* in that Sunday's collection will go to the Deacons for their good work among us.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** It is important to pray for our members and friends of our congregation especially those who are sick, or hospitalized, home-bound, or serving our

country around the world. Please notify the Church office for prayer requests/concerns, hospitalizations, illness, and anyone needing pastoral care or help from the Deacons. It is our privilege to lift you and those you love in prayer.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL (January 11):** We hope that you have enjoyed the winter break because Sunday School will be back next Sunday, January 11th at 9:40 AM!

**THANK YOU:** We offer our most sincere thanks to outgoing Deacons **Mitzi Dimmers, Marty Games, Connie Hutchinson, and Laureen Kimbrough**. Your passion for serving others is an inspiration to us all. It's truly a blessing to have such brilliant examples of selfless love and faithfulness in our midst. YOU have all served FPC well and we Thank You!

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## SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO BARB AUSEON for celebrating her 90th Birthday on January 2nd!



Barb, God fearfully and wonderfully made you and never made anyone like you. You've lived a life full of adventure, love, and laughter, and we're honored to be a part of your journey. Happy 90th birthday to someone who has always been a ray of sunshine. Your smile, your laughter, and your love have brightened our lives in so many ways. We're grateful for the abundant life God has given you in this life!

Join us after the service today for cake and punch  
in Fellowship Hall for a  
*Happy Birthday from all of us!*