



OCTOBER 2025

Newsletter

October/ November 2025 Worship Schedule

October 5 , 2025 *World Communion Sunday; Guest Speaker: Jim Drake, co-founder of Colina de Luz Home for Children in La Gloria, Mexico*

Music provided by Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am

Music provided by Chris DuPont and Kylee Phillips at 11:15 am in the Upper Room Service

Rev. Campbell is delivering the homily at both services based on Acts Ch. 4

October 12, 2025 *Gospel Choir Concert at 9:30 am;*

The Chancel Choir presents their Gospel Choir Concert in the sanctuary today

Music provided by Chris DuPont and Kylee Phillips at 11:15 am in the Upper Room Service

Rev. Ashley is delivering the homily at both services based on Acts Ch. 9: 1-19

October 19, 2025 *CE Storytelling Sunday*

Music provided by **The Joyful Ringers** in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am

Music provided by Chris DuPont and Kylee Phillips at 11:15 am in the Upper Room Service

Rev. Ashley and Patrick Tyrrell are delivering the homilies at both services based on Acts Ch. 9: 19b-31

October 26, 2025 *Share Fair Sunday/ Reformation Sunday/ Second Graders receive Bibles Today there is only one combined worship service from 9:30 am -10:45 am*

Music provided by The Chancel Choir and Chris DuPont and Kylee Phillips in the sanctuary at 9:30 am

Rev. Campbell is preaching based on Acts Ch. 13: 1-5 and Exodus 3: 1-12

From 10:45 am -1:00 pm, the Share Fair will take place in our church's Dining Room and Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to explore where God is calling them to serve.

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November 2, 2025 *St. Andrew's Sunday; Communion Sunday; Daylight Savings Ends*

Music provided by Chancel Choir and **David Martin, bagpiper** in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am

Music provided by Chris DuPont, Kylee Phillips, and **Brad Philipps on violin** at 11:15 am in the Upper Room Service Rev. Campbell is preaching at both services based on Acts Ch. 13: 1-14; 28.

November 9, 2025 *Baptism Sunday*

During our 9:30 am Sanctuary service we will welcome an infant into Christ's church

Music provided by Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am

Music provided by Chris DuPont and Kylee Phillips at 11:15 am in the Upper Room Service

Rev. Ashley is preaching at both services based on Acts Chs. 15 -18.

November 16, 2025 *New Member Welcome Sunday*

Music provided by **Carole Moon** in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am

Music provided by Chris DuPont and Kylee Phillips at 11:15 am in the Upper Room Service

Rev. Campbell is delivering the homily at both services based on Acts Chs. 18-21

November 23, 2025 *Thanksgiving Sunday*

Music provided by **The Joyful Ringers** in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am

Music provided by Chris DuPont and Kylee Phillips at 11:15 am in the Upper Room Service

Rev. Campbell is delivering the homily at both services based on Psalm 100 and 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

On Nov. 23rd at 4 pm The Community Thanksgiving Handbell Concert will be held at Plymouth First United Methodist Church featuring our own Joyful Ringers.

November 30, 2025 *First Sunday in Advent*

Music provided by Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am

Music provided by Chris DuPont and Kylee Phillips at 11:15 am in the Upper Room Service

Rev. Ashley kicks off our new sermon series Promises in the Dark. Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2-7

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I pray this letter finds you savoring these summer days — basking in sunshine, finding moments of rest, and connecting with God's creation. As we prepare to step into the rhythm of fall, I feel a renewed energy rising in our congregation — **for God is moving powerfully through the mission work of our church.** And as your pastor, I want to take a moment to not only celebrate but also invite you into all that's unfolding — because *you* are an essential part of it.

Mission Isn't a Program — It's a Way of Life

Here at FPCP, being mission minded is one of our core values. But our mission is not just a series of events or even a line item in the budget. It is a **calling to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.** Whether it's volunteering at the Thrift Shop, or at VBS, or taking the time to gift school supplies to a student in need, every act of love is a living sermon.

Where We've Been...

In this combined newsletter, you can read about the time gifted in the service of others in our local schools through Kids Hope. Our members have also been serving God throughout the summer months by volunteering at the Thrift Shop and at VBS. Our members have been providing for the needs of others in Ypsilanti, in Detroit, and have travelled as far as Nashville and Colorado in mission outreach events.

Where We're Going...

This fall, we're launching new opportunities to **go deeper and reach wider:**

1. **Mission Focus Sundays** – Beginning August 10th, with our guest preacher the Rev Dr. Davidson Chifungu from Malawi and concluding on October 26th with our **Share Fair Sunday**, we will focus our attention on God's calling to us all to serve in mission. We will be learning from our own church members what happened when they said Yes to God's call upon their lives.
2. **All-Church Mission Day – September 27th**—No matter how young or old you may be, save this date! There is church wide mission project being held on Saturday September 27th, which we hope everyone in our church will be involved in. We will be packing 40,000 meals on that day and we will need over 100 volunteers to work in shifts. Inside this newsletter you will find details about this event for Kids Coalition Against Hunger.

You Are Part of God's Work

Friends, I believe **God is writing a beautiful story through First Pres Plymouth**, and mission is at the heart of it. The gospel doesn't call us to stay put — it sends us out. And I see in you the courage, creativity, and compassion to follow where Christ leads.

Let's step boldly into this season, ready to serve, to love, and to live generously. Whether you're a longtime volunteer or someone looking for your first opportunity to plug in, there is room at the table. **Your presence matters. Your gifts matter. Your heart for others matters.**

May we continue to be a church **rooted in Christ and reaching out in love** — to our neighborhood and the nations.

With gratitude and hope,

Emily

NEW ONLINE GIVING PLATFORM

SERVANTKEEPER®

We are excited that FPCP is upgrading our giving platform to better serve our congregation and community. As part of this upgrade, we have transitioned to the new Servant Keeper Online Giving platform. To set up an online giving profile, please follow the directions below.

- *Step 1: Visit our church website at fpcp.net*
- *Step 2: Click on the "Give +" tab.*
- *Step 3: Click on the "Give Now" tab*
- *Step 4: Follow the instructions on the screen to create your account – use the email the church has on file for you.*
- *Step 5: Verify your account*
- *Step 6: Choose your gift amount and gift designation from the drop down menu.*

If you need further assistance, please contact Jennifer Bird – jenniferbird@fpcp.net or 734-453-6464 ext 116.



THE CHANCEL CHOIR *presents*

A GOSPEL CONCERT

October 12th

in the

9:30AM Sanctuary Service

At:

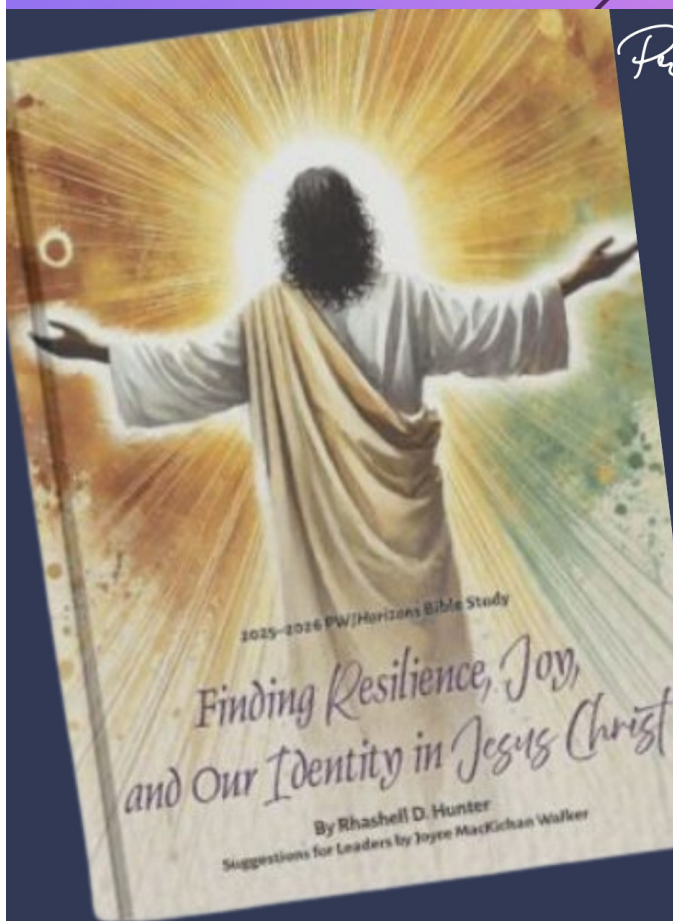
**First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth
701 Church St. Plymouth, MI**

WOMEN'S *Thursday Evening Bible Study*

We will be starting the Women's Thursday Evening Fall Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. in the Hearth Room on September 25. We're reading the book *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp. Here's a summary:

“How do we find joy in the midst of deadlines, debt, drama, and daily duties?” New York Times bestselling author Ann Voskamp wondered. When your days are filled with the mundane, disappointment, or even darkness, how can you break the bondage of self-hatred and fear that has white-knuckle control on your life and instead embrace the everyday blessings that will immerse you in Christ's fullness? How can you live your life with a heart overflowing with delight? Embark on this personal, honest, and fresh exploration of what it means to be deeply fulfilled, wholly happy, and finally fully alive.

All women are welcome to join us for all sessions or to drop in when their schedule allows. See you on Thursday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m.!



Presbyterian Women

Horizons Bible Study

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

All are welcome.

Meets monthly, 2nd Tuesday, Sept. thru May, at 7 p.m. in FPCP dining room and by zoom

Contact KikiFarrow@aol.com for books. Cost \$15

USHERS NEEDED

The Worship Committee is looking for ushers!

This is a great opportunity to serve by helping to make sure members and guests feel welcomed and that they have a positive worship experience. It isn't difficult, the commitment is light, and the rewards are plenty! We are in need of a permanent usher for the Upper Room service the second Sunday of the month. And, for anyone not ready to commit to a regular schedule, we are always looking for subs!

Please reach out to Lori Kuhn - lorimkuh@gmail.com or Lisa Benages - lisa.benages@gmail.com



Large Print Bibles & Song Sheets



Limited quantities of Bibles and song sheets with large print are available.

Please let an usher know if you would like to use them during worship.





COLOR YOUR FALL WITH KINDNESS.

Give blood.



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive

First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth

701 Church Street

**Thursday, October 9, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

To schedule your appointment, please log onto RedCrossBlood.org
(sponsor code: fpcp) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting
RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health
history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

**Come to give blood Sept. 22-Oct. 19 for a \$10
Amazon.com Gift Card by email! See rcblood.org/fall**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

© 2023 The American National Red Cross | 418001-03-Field-RW

FPCP SHARE FAIR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025



When: following the Super Sunday service.
Where: in the Fellowship Hall.

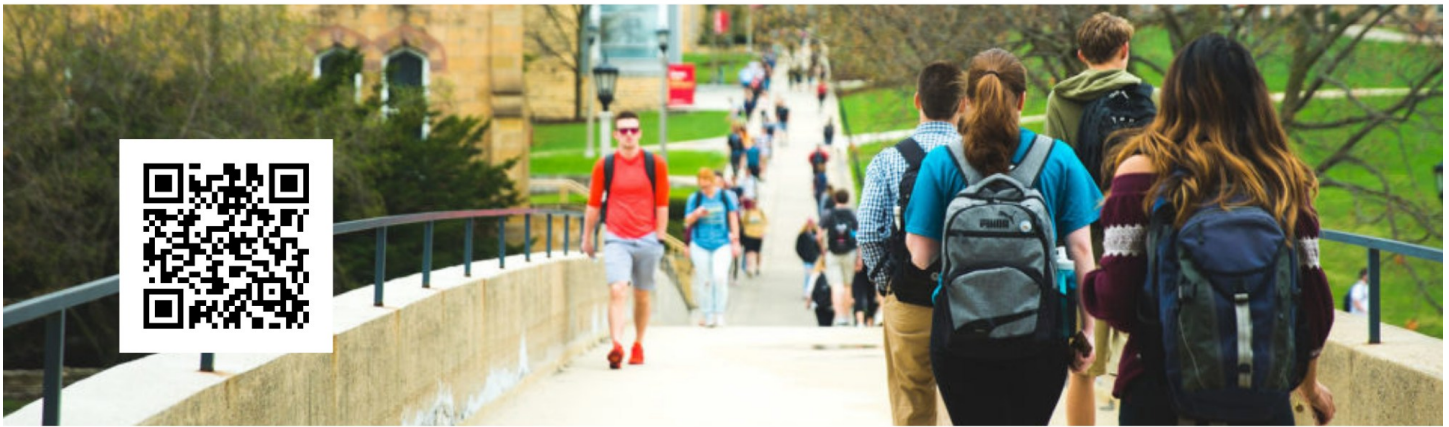
- Tables set up by various groups and committees of the church.
- Small bites will be served.

Explore all the opportunities to share your time and talents in the service of Christ.

For further info contact:

Mike Dean – mrdean0522@gmail.com

Jerry Marentette – jerrymarentette@gmail.com

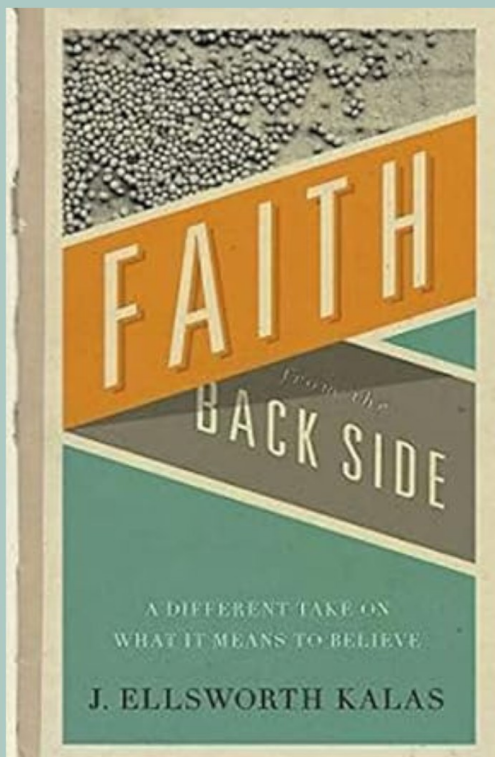


ATTENTION PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Deacons want to let our FPCP college students know that we are thinking about them, so each semester at exam time we send gift cards along with an encouraging note. If you would like your student to receive a gift card from the church, we will need to know their current address.

If your student has changed their address since last year, or started school this winter, you can update their address with the QR code or send address updates to Tina Fitzgerald at jthejafitz@gmail.com by November 15, 2025. Thank you!

CONTINUING THE WORD BIBLE STUDY



Faith from the Back Side

J. Ellsworth Kalas

A Different Take on What it Means to Believe

All welcome to join us.

Sundays 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

**October 5, 2025 to January 11, 2026
Meeting in the Chapel with Zoom Option**

"We exercise faith every day, in hundreds of secular moments, then struggle to find it in its purest form when we need God's help the most."

(J. Ellsworth Kalas, adapted from the foreword)

Book available at Amazon (Faith from the Back Side) or your favorite book distributor.

Please contact Dana Hearn for more information

Presbyterian Women News and Recruitment Alert

PW contributes **a lot** to our church
especially activities to unite women like

**Women of Retirement Age Breakfasts, Bible Studies,
Book Discussions, Earth Care, Kids Hope and much more.**

Your ideas and energy are welcome and needed to keep PW active.

Please contact any of our current PW Coordinating Team
to discuss how you can help.

Carol Duncan – carol4575@ymail.com

Kiki Farrow - kikifarrow@aol.com

Peggy Fisher Kmieciak – peggyfkmieciak@gmail.com

Jean Krause – jckplymi@gmail.com

Linda Luke, Thrift Shop - lindaluke2018@gmail.com

Bev MacGaw - jwkmipi@gmail.com

Marjorie Silvis – mlynch516828@gmail.com



MAKE A DIFFERENCE, ONE CUP AT A TIME

Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate will
be available for purchase on Sunday, October
5th between and after services.

**We will also be collecting batteries and ink
cartridges for recycling in the Narthex.**

Kindly remember that due to City of Plymouth
recycling requirements, the only items
available to place in the church recycling bins
are empty plastic bottles, clean & dry paper
and cardboard. All cups, napkins, paper plates
and eating utensils are to go in the garbage
bin. Thanks for your support in putting the
recycling and garbage objects in the correct
bins.





Come share your Thanksgiving Day with us!

November 27, 2025 11:30am until 3:00 pm

43rd Annual

Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the Community

Westminster Presbyterian

Church of Detroit

17567 Hubbell @ W. Outer Drive

****Limited Dine-In available 11:30a-1:00p and 1:30p-3p (50 person maximum per time slot)****

(Curbside pick-up North door)

There is no charge at our table!

For more information call: 313.341.2697 Ext. 314 Or email:

Thanksgiving@wcodetroit.org

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Thanksgiving@wcodetroit.org



Presbyterian Women Women of Retirement Age Breakfast

We will be meeting for breakfast at
Red Olive on Ann Arbor Road
October 21st at 8:30 am. Please let us
know if you are joining us.

Please let Lisa or Marge know if
you're coming!

Lisa.benages@gmail.com.
Mlynch516828@gmail.com If weather
is bad, we will reschedule for Oct.15

**Save the
Date**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday



OCTOBER 19
IN THE SANCTUARY AND UPPER ROOM

Let's gather to pray, worship, and grow stronger with our children and youth.

FPCP YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

SEPT

SEPTEMBER 28
FPCP FESTIVAL 4-8 PM

OCT

OCTOBER 19
THREE CEDARS 4-7 PM

NOV

NOV 9
2ND ANNUAL BAKE OFF 4-9 PM
NOV 23
FRIENDSGIVING 6-8 PM

DEC



Winter Retreat to Spring Hill Feb 13-15

FPCP YOUTH MINISTRY

**FPCP YOUTH GROUP
MEETS SUNDAY NIGHTS
FROM 6-8 PM AT FPCP**

**WE HAVE A GREAT TIME WITH FOOD,
GAMES, FUN, AND EXPLORING MORE
ABOUT OUR FAITH.**



Scan QR Code to stay up to date on all things

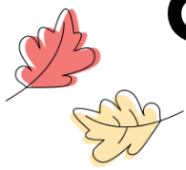
FPCP Youth Ministry

ANY QUESTIONS?

CONTACT PATRICK AT:

PATRICKTYRRELL@FPCP.NET

OR 734-453-6464 X120



Children's Ministry Fall Event Schedule



Fall Events:

9/28-Dairy King- 12:30-1:30pm

10/12- Trunk or Treat- 3-4:30pm in the parking lot



11/09- Grateful Gathering in fellowship hall- 12:30-1:30pm

12/7- Sunday School Christmas Party at 9:30am

Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant will be December 14th in the Sanctuary at 9:30am.

Practices will be in the sanctuary:

10/5- 12:30-1:30pm

10/19- 12:30-1:30pm

11/2- 12:30-1:30pm

11/16- 12:30-1:30pm

11/23- 12:30-1:30pm

12/7- 11-12:30pm



Sunday School and Kid Konnection

Sunday school resumes 9/14 in room 134 at 9:30am

Kid Konnection is the third week of each month. We will be meeting Sept 17th, Oct 15th, Nov 19th and Dec 17th.

Dinner will be served at 6pm in the dining hall, class will be 6:30-7:30pm in room 134. The class will focus on hands on activities that help children continue to grow in their faith.

Trunk or Treat

**Sunday, October 12th
3-4:30 pm in the parking
lot**



**Join us for Trick or Treating, Costume
contest, crafts and treats!**



Children's Ministry Hallway Update

To better serve our families, we are limiting the Children's Ministry Hallway to children and their families, as well as Kid's Ministry volunteers and Bell choir.

Coat racks will be moved soon to a different area of the church to be used. Thank you for understanding!

If you have any questions please reach out to Laura Craig, lauracraig@fpcp.net or call 734.453.6464, ext 110



Trunk or Treat Sign-Ups and Candy Donations

Looking for people or committees who would like to host a trunk. Trunk or Treat is Sunday, October 12th- 3:00pm-4:30pm. If the weather is bad, October 19th is the back up day. We are looking for 12 more people to host a trunk. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex or email Laura Craig.

If you cannot help during Trunk or Treat, we are also looking for candy donations. Starting Sept 21st there will be bins in the Narthex for candy donations.

Not sure what hosting a trunk entails or need ideas? Please reach out to Laura Craig.



Fall Member Exploration Classes

Sunday, November 2, 12:30-2:00 pm

Sunday November 9, 10:45 am-12:15 pm

In person in the Hearth Room and Library

The member exploration class is designed for both those looking to learn more about FPCP, as well as those looking to become members. There is no obligation to join!

Begin registration by scanning the QR code. If you would like to register over the phone, have previously taken the Member



Exploration class and wish to join, or if you have any questions, call Jennifer Hollebrands at 734-453-6464, ext 115.

New members will be welcomed on Sunday, November 16, 2025.

Join us at the 2025 Share Fair

One of the best ways for current and prospective members to make connections in the church is through service opportunities. If you have ever wanted to get more involved at FPCP but not known where to start, join the Share Fair on October 26th to find service opportunities that are missing your unique gifts and experience.

Stop by the Member Connect table to learn more about joining the church or joining the Member Connect committee.





You are the
Light
ANNUAL GALA

PLATED DINNER
DANCING & COCKTAILS
AWARD CEREMONY
LIVE MUSIC BY
THE BLUEWATER KINGS
SILENT AUCTION
SURVIVOR SPEAKERS

OCTOBER 17, 2025

6:30 PM - 11:30 PM
LAUREL MANOR
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

FIRSTSTEP-MI.ORG/LIGHT





SPONSORSHIP/TICKET OPPORTUNITIES

\$50,000 BEACON OF HOPE SPONSOR

- ⇒ VIP Event Experience: Priority seating for 20 guests
- ⇒ VIP Dinner Experience: Cocktail service to table(s) during dinner
- ⇒ Featured recognition during event
- ⇒ Logo display on event table
- ⇒ Full-page ad with prime placement in the event program
- ⇒ Amplified Exposure: Three social media shout-outs
- ⇒ Featured recognition in First Step's newsletter
- ⇒ Premier recognition on First Step's website
- ⇒ Personalized informational session and guided tour of First Step's facilities

\$25,000 LUMINESCENCE SPONSOR

- ⇒ VIP Event Experience: Priority seating for 20 guests
- ⇒ VIP Dinner Experience: Cocktail service to table(s) during dinner
- ⇒ Featured recognition during event
- ⇒ Logo display on event table
- ⇒ Full-page ad with prominent placement in the event program
- ⇒ Amplified Exposure: Two social media shout-outs
- ⇒ Acknowledgement in First Step's newsletter
- ⇒ Prominent recognition on First Step's website
- ⇒ Personalized informational session and guided tour of First Step's facilities

\$10,000 BRILLIANCE SPONSOR

- ⇒ VIP Event Experience: Priority seating for 10 guests
- ⇒ VIP Dinner Experience: Wine pour at table during dinner
- ⇒ Featured recognition during event
- ⇒ Logo display on event table
- ⇒ Full-page ad in event program
- ⇒ One social media shout-out
- ⇒ Recognition in First Step's newsletter
- ⇒ Recognition on First Step's website

\$5,000 ILLUMINATION SPONSOR

- ⇒ Seating for 10 guests
- ⇒ Logo display on event table
- ⇒ Ad recognition during event
- ⇒ Half page ad in event program
- ⇒ Listing on First Step's website

\$2,500 RADIANCE SPONSOR

- ⇒ Seating for 10 Guests
- ⇒ Listing recognition during event
- ⇒ Quarter page ad in event program
- ⇒ Listing on First Step's website

\$1,750 ULTRAVIOLET SPONSOR

- ⇒ Seating for 10 guests
- ⇒ Listing recognition during event
- ⇒ Listing in event program

\$500 GLIMMER SPONSOR

- ⇒ Two event tickets
- ⇒ Listing in event program

\$150 EVENT TICKET

- ⇒ One event ticket (includes champagne toast, entrée, dessert, and open bar)

Company/Organization/Individual Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Relationship to Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

☐ Check here if above address is for the Company/Organization

Phone (Cell): _____ (Work): _____

E-mail: _____

☐ I can't attend, but I would like 100% of my sponsorship to be donated to First Step.

Method of Payment:

☐ Check ☐ Invoice us

If you would like to pay by credit card, please go online to firststep-mi.org/light to complete your purchase.

Sponsorship Level:

☐ Beacon of Hope	☐ Radiance	☐ Event Ticket
☐ Luminescence	☐ Ultraviolet	Number of tickets: _____
☐ Brilliance	☐ Glimmer	
☐ Illumination		

How did you hear about this event? _____

The deadline for recognition in the program is September 15, 2025.

Visit firststep-mi.org/light or scan the code to secure a sponsorship, purchase tickets, or donate online.



You can also mail, email or fax to: First Step
44567 Pinetree Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170,
info@firststep-mi.org, fax: 734-416-5555
Please make checks payable to First Step.

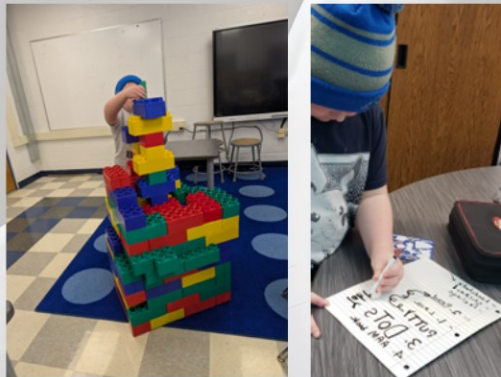
Questions? Call or email Carrie Bozman,
734.656.0738, cbozman@firststep-mi.org.



KIDS HOPE MENTORS NEEDED FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR



Things students like to do...



Does this look like an agenda you could enjoy?
Do you love kids and Jesus and have an hour a week to spare?

You might be a good fit for a role as a
Kids Hope Mentor
for a student at Bird Elementary.

As a mentor you would reflect the love of Jesus with the gift of your presence, and support a student with one-on-one attention, encouragement and fun.

OR

You could pray for a student and mentor as their dedicated Prayer Partner.

**If you would like to learn more,
please contact Susan Johnson at 734.751.9334**



LOCAL MISSION

October 2025

There are many opportunities to reach out with hearts and hands to those in need right here in our own community

Upcoming Service Opportunities:

October 7 Local Mission meeting 5:15-7pm in-person in the Hearth Room at FPCP
October 17 First Step "You are the Light" Gala
October 26 Share Fair at FPCP
November 7 Hope Clinic "Evening of Hope" Gala
November 4 Local Mission meeting 5:15-7pm on Zoom
November 18 Salvation Army Plymouth Volunteer opportunity 9:30-11:30am
December 2 Local Mission meeting 5:15-7 on Zoom
December 8 Serve dinner at Hope Clinic 3:00-6:30pm
December 17 Salvation Army Plymouth Volunteer opportunity 8:30-12/1:00-4:00
December 29 Serve dinner at Hope Clinic 3:00-6:30pm

LOCAL MISSION MEETINGS

Please consider joining our Local Mission team. We meet once a month on Zoom from 5:15pm-7pm and occasionally meet in-person to work on a service project. There are several volunteer opportunities if you would like to get involved. If you are interested in learning more about this committee, please contact Dana Stonerook at dstonerook@aol.com or 248-802-3622.

SALVATION ARMY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Salvation Army Plymouth has some volunteer opportunities on November 18 from 10:00am to approximately noon, putting together bags of groceries for their families in need, for Thanksgiving. On December 17th they need help with the toy distribution 8:30am-noon and 1:00pm-4:00pm.



Please consider donating your time at The Salvation Army, 9451 S Main St, Plymouth, MI 48170. If you would like more information please contact Cathy McKinstry at kdmcmc@yahoo.com or 734-751-8707.

Thrift Shop- Many hands make light work. We are in need of volunteers a couple of hours a week or a month. If you are interested, please contact Linda Luke at Lindaluke2018@gmail.com or 734-812-4516.

Please stop all month for some Spooky Savings. The staff will be in costume all of Halloween week and would love to see your costumes as well.

Be sure to follow the Thrift Shop on Facebook to see the weekly sales that are announced.



For more information:



Friday, November 7, 2025 at 6:00pm
Saint John's Resort, Grand Ballroom
44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth, MI

Tickets: \$175 per person / Patron Table of 10: \$1,700

FEATURING:

Reception with Hors d'oeuvres and Beer & Wine, Raffle Prize Baskets, Wine Pull
3-course dinner prepared by the expert culinary team at Saint John's Resort
Emcee + Host, Lila Lazarus
Special performance by Mosaic Singers from Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit
Live Auction

DETAILS

Attire: Smart Casual

If you have further questions, please call Patti Radzik at 734-484-2989 ext. 208
Hope Clinic partners with you to make lives better, serving the whole person with free and integrated: Medical, Dental, Food, and Behavioral Health Care; in Jesus' name.



NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL MISSION COMMITTEE

October 2025



Malawi Students Back at School

On September 22, 2025, high school students at the CDSS began a new school year. We await word from school administrators of returning students, new freshman (Form-1) and students who will seek scholarships. FPCP has consistently supported 75 girls with tuition, room and board, and last year supported 36 boys with tuition payments. We will be asking for new and continuing sponsors this year.

Our fervent prayer is that each student will return to continue their education and persist in their walk with Christ. Your prayers are desperately needed, as education especially for girls is not prioritized in the Malawian culture. We can help make a difference with your prayers and support in Malawi, one girl at a time!



Prayers for Pat Murphy and Doug Kee

Please keep Pat Murphy and Doug Kee in your prayers. On Wednesday, September 10th, Pat began his cross-country journey cycling across the United States. Pat is raising funds for Marion Medical Mission. You can follow Pat's journey (including a blog and real-time update) and donate to his cause through his personal website patrickpedals.com.

Doug Kee is in Malawi serving with Marion Medical Mission installing clean water wells in rural villages. Please keep Doug and all the Marion Medical workers and volunteers in your prayers for a successful and safe well-installation season.

A Note of Thanks from Rev. Dr. Davidson Chifungo:

Let me take this opportunity to sincerely appreciate your hospitality. I am deeply grateful for the love and care you have shown to me and my family. It was a great blessing to be back at Plymouth in early August and enjoy the fellowship of brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for all you do in praying for us and supporting our ministry in Malawi. I am especially thankful for the privilege of speaking in church and greatly appreciate the kindness of the families who opened their homes for me during my stay.

May God richly bless you all.

With gratitude,
Davidson



Christmas for COLINA

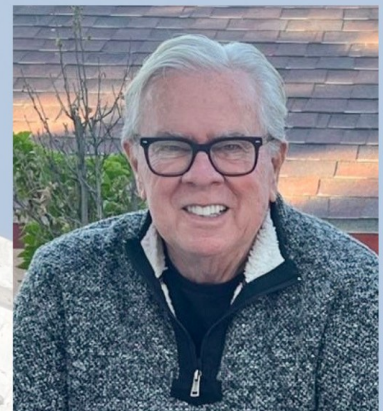


Please help provide Christmas to 60 children who live at Colina de Luz in Mexico. Colina's founder, Jim Drake, will be visiting FPCP Oct. 1-8, and we'd like to send at least \$50/child to ensure that each child will receive a gift this Christmas.

Please designate a special offering for "Christmas for Colina" by your preferred method of giving to FPCP.

Welcome JIM DRAKE

CO-FOUNDER OF COLINA DE LUZ



It is a thrill to announce that Jim Drake, co-founder of Colina de Luz Christian Home for Children, will be visiting FPCP from Tijuana, Mexico on October 1-8!

Come hear his faith-filled story of 38 years of serving over 700 children on Sunday, October 5th, 2025.

MONARCH MIGRATION

Like our migrating birds, monarchs do fly south in autumn, BUT unlike birds, those same butterflies do not return here the next spring. It's the next generation of monarchs that appear in Michigan the following summer. Scientists have not unlocked the key to how newly emerged monarchs find their way back to the north. Research is ongoing.

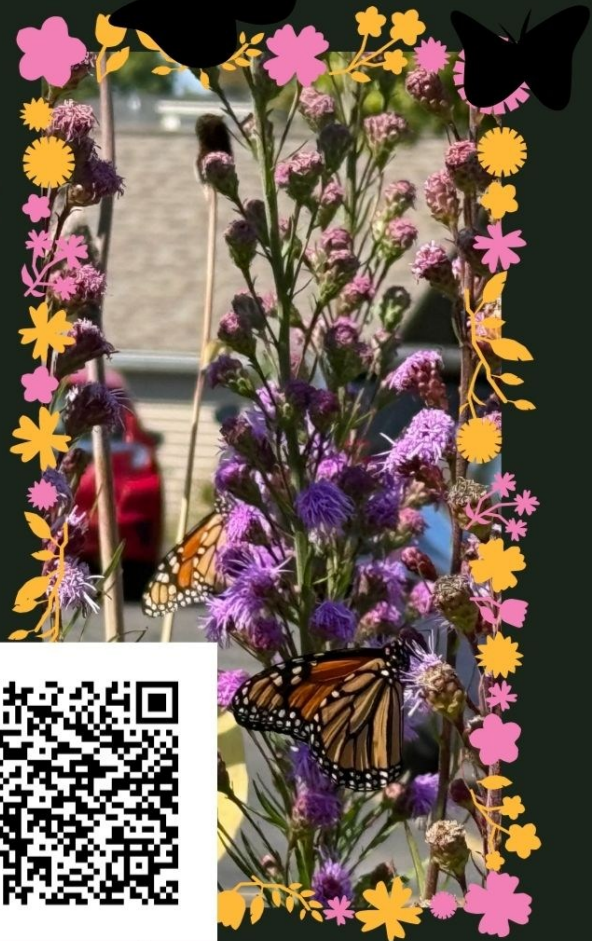
During the fall, monarchs fly singly southward using 'airstreams' or 'flyways' that lead to central Mexico. You may see them nectaring on late blooming flowers to fuel their upcoming flights. One favorite nectar source is the "Prairie Blazing Star" (scientific name: *Liatris ligulistylis*). We have this in our FPCP parking lot gardens, and a photo is included with this article. Although the butterflies fly singly, they roost in groups, sometimes by the hundreds or more. They congregate in trees overnight as they rest for the following day's flight.

One especially wonderful location to observe the congregations of monarchs is Canada's Point Pelee National Park, not far east of Windsor. It's a great autumn day trip.

There's a "Citizen Scientist" group, Journey North, that uses data from citizen observers to track the progress of the butterflies in spring as well as fall. Here's a link to their site:

<https://journeynorth.org/monarchs>

There is so much more to learn and understand about this amazing and beautiful insect in God's Creation!



BRIDGING TO BELONGING WORKSHOP



BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: FROM DIVISION TO BELONGING

Why does division feel so easy—and belonging so hard? In this interactive workshop, explore the science of othering and belonging, uncover why connection can be challenging, and practice key skills to bridge divides. Engage in meaningful discussions, connect with others, and leave with a practical guidebook to start fostering belonging in your daily life.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- Understand the Science – Learn why our brains are wired for othering and how we can shift toward belonging.
- Practice Connection Skills – Gain simple, effective tools to bridge divides and create meaningful relationships.
- Take Action – Build bridging skills through a brief positive group experience in order to increase Belonging.
- Walk away with a practical guidebook to start fostering belonging in your daily life.

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VALUED AND CAN
CONTRIBUTE.

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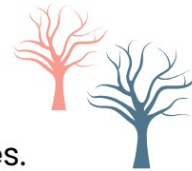


FESTIVAL OF TABLES 2025

It's a shame that each year during Festival of Tables so much time is spent planning and executing these gorgeous tables only for it to be over in a few hours. We are hoping to remedy that by showing off our beautiful tables to the community and all of our church members. For this reason, the plan for hostesses is more involved as follows:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:00am-1:00pm
9:00am-3:00pm



On these days, hostesses will decorate their tables.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

1:00pm-3:00pm

Festival of Tables Open House. You (or your chosen representative) need to be present at your table as we open the church to our members and the community. We will serve all hostesses a quick lunch from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. **Immediately after the Open House on Sunday afternoon, the choir will have their Christmas Concert starting at 3:00 p.m.**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

for those attending the event. The event will run as normal with a program, table viewing and dessert. If you wish to purchase a ticket (\$10.00) please see Peggy Kmiecik or contact one of the hostesses listed on the Presbyterian Women bulletin board. Please note that the Festival of Tables event will take place on the **second Monday** in December.

We are looking for a few more hostesses for this year's event. If you are interested please contact Ailsa Blunk at lemonblunk@gmail.com.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JUNE 16, 2025 STATED SESSION MEETING

Minister's Comments:

Reverend Ashley expressed her sincere appreciation for the efforts of the committees this year and for the 5 years which she has been Associate Pastor at FPCP.

Reverend Campbell thanked each of the outgoing Elders for their contributions the last 3 years.

Purchases of niches in the Columbarium have been very active since the expansion this year.

Four Stephen Ministers have completed a rigorous 18-week training course and they will be commissioned Sunday: Kris Black, Patti Devine, Glenn Anderson and Kim Pierson.

Building and Grounds: Two contractors have looked at our proposed ramp from the parking lot to the Narthex. The Session consensus was to continue to get more quotes.

The church will be closed for deep cleaning of carpets and floors July 8,9, and 10.

Christian Education The Child and Youth Director positions were filled for the complete year CE has a goal to work more with Member Connect and Local Mission and to integrate their input into Children and Youth training. Thirty eight children have signed up for VBS

Student attendance is increasing. Communication has improved with parents.

The Child Protection policy has been updated.

Finance/Endowment: We are still ahead of budget to date, but they will continue to monitor.

Thrift Shop revenue has continued to be strong.

Human Resources: The HR Handbook was completed and is being reviewed by outside experts

Local Mission: Volunteers are needed at Crossroads June 26 and at the Second Mile Ctr Aug 12.

Member Connect: Plans to make visitors to our services feel welcome included gift bags and recognition from the pulpit. MC is still looking into how to get them more involved with FPCP.

QR codes are in the pews, allowing visitors to learn more about us with a click of their phone.

Participation in Kellogg Park events will continue and more opportunities will be searched out.

More online hosts will be welcoming visitors to our live streaming services.

National/International Mission:

Davidson Chifungu will be here in August and will preach on Sunday August 10.

Stewardship: Plans for the Share Fair are going very well, and he appreciates the great help from all committees. There are now 34 displays, and he will work with B&G on the floor plan.

Worship: Music scores for 71 anthems were purchased with help from the Jerry Smith endowment.

Chris and Kylee will perform at a September 28 outdoor concert planned by the Deacons.



Gracious and Loving God, we praise you for the joy, energy, and love you poured into our church family this summer. Thank you for the gift of Vacation Bible School and our theme of “Hero Hotline” that reminded us all that the greatest superpower is learning to love others the way you first loved us. We give thanks for the children who attended—each one a unique reflection of your light and joy. Their laughter, curiosity, and kindness made us smile and filled our evenings with delight.

We also thank you for the many volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make VBS possible. Through their creativity, patience, and care, they showed what it means to be everyday heroes in your kingdom.

We are equally grateful for the youth and adult leaders who traveled to Nashville on their mission trip. Thank you for their willingness to serve—especially in the heat—and for their open hearts as they worked alongside organizations that care for those experiencing poverty. We praise you for the lessons learned, the compassion shared, and the ways they witnessed your Spirit moving through the city. Continue to bless this mission team as they prepare to lead worship and share more about their trip with on Sunday, August 17

Lord, we ask that the seeds planted this summer—through every story told, every act of service, and every relationship formed—would take root and grow. May they blossom throughout the coming program year and bear fruit in the lives of these children and youth for years to come.

Strengthen our church family to continue walking in love, serving with joy, and following wherever you lead. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

