



...how often should  
I forgive?

"Not **SEVEN** times,  
but, I tell you,  
**SEVENTY-  
SEVEN**  
times."

*Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV*

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First  
Presbyterian  
Church of Northville



248-349-0911 • [www.fpcnorthville.org](http://www.fpcnorthville.org)

# ***Welcome***

## **to First Presbyterian Church of Northville**

***Thank you for worshipping with us!***

We invite you to write your name and contact information on the Friendship Pad and pass it down the pew for others to sign.

If you would like a children's folder, large print bulletin, *wireless hearing assistance device* or back pillow, the ushers will be happy to assist you. We currently offer two types of hearing assistance devices: one with earphones, and one which works with "T" coil hearing aids.

If you are visiting with us, and don't have a Bible you can read and understand, please take one from your pew as our gift to you!

Please join us for coffee or tea in Boll Hall after the service.

# ***We Believe***

We believe relationships are key to understanding God and enjoying life together.

We seek to create a community that mirrors God's unconditional acceptance and love.

We value and are centered in scripture.

We honor and worship a God who is constantly at work for the good of every person in every place.

We welcome all regardless of politics, gender, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction.

We are called to love as God loves.

***We're glad you're here!***



## Order of Worship

~ The prelude is to be a time of reflection and preparation for worship ~

### Welcome

#### Prelude

*In Dir Ist Freude*

Johann Sebastian Bach

### Announcements

### Preschool Anniversary Recognition

#### Introit

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

**#263**

#### **\*Call to Worship** (read responsively)

One: Praise the Lord!

**All: Let us praise God together.**

One: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love;

**All: as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins.**

One: So, let us rejoice in God's gracious presence.

**All: Let us praise the God of mercy together.**

#### **\*Opening Prayer**

#### **\*Hymn**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

**#435**

### Call to Confession

#### **Prayer of Confession** (unison)

**O God, our lives do not always reflect your transforming power. You are gracious, but we cling to judgment. You are kind, but we can be cruel. You are forgiving, but we nurse grudges and old wounds. Forgive us, O God. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, and make us new through Christ, your Son and our Savior.**

*(Silent Confession)*

### Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Please rise in body or spirit.

### Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture Readings

#### First Scripture Reading—Romans 14: 1-12

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God

#### Second Scripture Reading—Matthew 18: 21-35

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered

him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Meditation**

**Rev. Jacqueline Spycher**

## **Call for the Offering**

### **Offertory**

In Thee Is Gladness  
Chancel Choir

Giovanni Gastoldi

**\*Doxology Praise God, from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Christ, all people here below  
Praise Holy Spirit ever more;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

## **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

## **Prayers of the 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. And lead us not  
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**     *Go, My Children, With My Blessing*     **#547**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sung Response**     *When Peace Like a River*     **#840**

**Postlude**     *Passamezzo Antico*     Elias Nikolaus Ammerbach

*After the benediction response, you may depart from the sanctuary or stay to enjoy the postlude.*

## **Worship Leaders and Staff:**

### Program Ministry

Rev. Jacqueline Spycher, Senior Pastor

Stephen Flavin, Director of Congregational Care

Jenn Zibbell, Children & Youth Director, Mission Coordinator

### Liturgist

Beth Heberlein

### Music Ministry

Dr. Jerry Custer, Vocal Music Director

Nancy Plumley, Te Deum Handbell Director

Dr. Dave Wagner, Organist/Accompanist

Chailyn Wacasey, Guest Musician

### Technology

Daryl Bean, AV Tech Associate

### Preschool

Lisa Higley, Director

Cynthia Korpela, Asst. Director

### Office Staff

Kelly Sartorius, Church Administrator

Kelly Clarke, Accounting Clerk

Natalya Stallworth, Communications  
Associate

### Sextons

Paige Poinsett, Daytime Sexton

Zak Bugosh, Evening Sexton



## ***To the Glory of God***

*The flowers in the chancel are given by  
Sharon York in honor of the birthday of Dr. Jerry  
Custer, Director of Chancel Choir.*

# The Bulletin Board

**The Annual Meeting** of the congregation and corporation will be Sunday, September 24 after the worship service. All FPCN members are invited and encouraged to attend. We will gather in Boll Hall for the meeting and to celebrate with a “Year in Review” presentation and refreshments. Looking forward to seeing you there.

**How can you Serve?** - The Congregational Nominating committee is seeking candidates for the offices of Deacon, Elder, Endowment and Congregational Nominating committee for the term beginning in January 2024. If you feel called to serve on one of these important church offices, would like to nominate someone else or would like more information, please contact Debby DeLaby, CNC moderator, at 248-347-1063 or [debbydelaby@gmail.com](mailto:debbydelaby@gmail.com).

**Yoga is back again for the fall!**  
**6:15 pm in the CLC**



**Session 1:**

September 7, 14, 28, Oct. 5, 19, 26  
(No class Sept 21 & Oct 12)

**Session 2:**

November 2, 9, 16, 30, Dec. 7, 14 (No class Nov 23)

The cost is \$60 for each 6 week session. Drop in rate is \$15.

All levels are welcome. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat and a blanket or large towel to class. For more information contact Ann Werther at 248-672-3209 or at [annwerther@yahoo.com](mailto:annwerther@yahoo.com)

**Agape Women' Bible Study**—Please join us for “Abide, a Study of 1, 2 & 3 John” Get your bundle copy today at [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com). We will meet on Friday's at 9:15 am in Boll Hall. Our first discussion is Friday, September 15th. All are welcome so bring a friend. Please email [jsyver@gmail.com](mailto:jsyver@gmail.com) to RSVP. For more information, contact Carol Maise ([Maise729@yahoo.com](mailto:Maise729@yahoo.com)) or Gretchen Mizerowski ([gmizerowski@yahoo.com](mailto:gmizerowski@yahoo.com)).



**Find Your Perfect Fit!** You're invited to the FPCN Fall Opportunity Fair on Sunday, September 24th after service, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting! Contact Vivienne Ward at [jvtward@aol.com](mailto:jvtward@aol.com) for questions or to host a table. Looking forward to seeing you there.

**GAP and APEX youth groups** will be meeting again starting tonight 17 at 6:30 in the high school room. If you have any questions, please contact Jenn Zibbell 248-349-0911. Hope to see you there!!



**Red Cross Blood Drive** — will be at our church on Friday, September 29. Make your appointment on-line at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code: fpcnorthville), or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Your donation will help save a life!

**The Chancel Choir is back.** Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. New members are welcome in all sections. If you are not sure which section is right for you, let our experts help you find your place as you raise your voice in worship. Questions? Ask Dr. Jerry by email to [custer@wayne.edu](mailto:custer@wayne.edu) or by phone at 734-358-9753. Listen! Is God call you?

**The Mission & Outreach Committee** is collecting hygiene items for various organizations now through October 8th. We are asking for donations of deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, disposable razors, combs, shaving cream, feminine hygiene products. We need regular and travel size items. Please drop off items in the box near the Mission table in Boll Hall. If you prefer to order from Amazon, you can use the link in the Friday email to order and have items delivered. Thank you for your continued support.





IN OUR

# Thoughts and Prayers



**Congregation:** Jim Atkinson; Grant Beringer; Phil & Ginny Cavaretta; Curt Esch, Louise Fisher, the family of Helen Friess; Kathy Gricius; Ron and Lois Housman; Nancy Kaatz, the family of Tom Lahiff; Donald Morgan; Jeanne Planet, Georgeann Stringer; Melissa Weiss; Dick Werther; Debbie Wood.

**Friends and Family:** Kimberly Atkinson (family of Jim & Marilyn Atkinson); Patricia Bader (mother of Dave Bader); Heather Belkadi, daughter of Tammy Fulton, Rick Custer (brother of Jerry Custer); Donna (neighbor of Kathy Gricius); Brant Doty (brother of Tim Doty); Jackie Fisher (mother of Louise Fisher); Sally Gillies (sister of Ron Austin); Grandson of friend of Janet Heath-Morgan; Connie Hassaballa (sister of Sandy Robison & Judy Russell); Makayla granddaughter of Neyssa Gill); Mark Ivankovics (brother-in-law of Louise Fisher); Robert Kirn (son of Mary Kirn); Arden Lee, Friend of Abbe MacDonald; Radu Marginean (grandson-in-law of Jim & Marilyn Atkinson); Sheila York Marold & family; Dave Nickel (Son-in-law of Kathy Gricius); Nina & Nikolai (residing in Ukraine; relatives of Marcia Booth); Melanie Nikonowicz (friend of Kelly & Guy Sartorius); Marc Noga (friend of Jim & Liz Murtfeldt); Barbara Onofrio (friend of Georgeann Stringer); Kathy Pflieger, sister of Deb Sopo, Christine Snell (friend of Kathy Gricius); June Tervo (mother of Curt & Trudy Esch and grandmother of Emily Hamilton); Terry Wingblad (friend of Darleen Sweeney); Kelly and Steve William friends of FPCN, Randy Wisner (cousin of Darleen Sweeney).

## All Caregivers

**All Military Personnel** currently serving here and abroad.

*To add a name to this list, please call your Deacon, or the Church office at 248-349-0911. Please note that names are added to the Prayer Ministry list only with the individual's permission. This list will be purged and reprinted periodically. **Kindly let us know when to remove a name. Thank you.***





## BUILDING **global** RESILIENCE

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.



*Novi/Northville*  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

OCTOBER 01, 2023

NOVI, MICHIGAN

**Donate or join our team: FPC Northville**  
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/fpc-northville>



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**DEACON**  
**Διακονος**  
one who serves

# YOU ARE NEEDED



Calling all with servant hearts  
to join our Deacon team in  
extending loving hands to our  
church and community

**CARE  
&  
CONNECT**

**SERVE  
&  
SUPPORT**

To seek nomination or to nominate someone else  
contact: [debbydelaby@gmail.com](mailto:debbydelaby@gmail.com)  
248 347 1063

Questions regarding the role of deacon contact:  
[stephenflavin@fpcnorthville.com](mailto:stephenflavin@fpcnorthville.com)  
248 349 0911

**WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2023—SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

Sunday 9/17	8:45 am	Kerygma, Gathering Room
	10:00 am	Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live
	10:15 am	Children's Sunday School, Education Wing
	11:15 am	Children's Ministry Parent Meeting, Youth Room
	6:30 pm	APEX & GAP Youth Groups, Youth Room

Mon. 9/18

Tue. 9/19      4:00 pm    Vital Congregation Meeting, via zoom  
                      7:30 pm    Session, via zoom  
                      8:00 pm    AA Meeting, CLC  
                      8:00 pm    AL-ANON Meeting, Boll Hall

Wed. 9/20	8:00 am	Men's Morning Small Group, via Zoom
	10:00 am	Living & Learning Team Visit
	6:00 pm	Music Reading 101, Music Center
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thurs. 9/21

Fri. 9/22      8:00 am   Victorian Festival, Boll Hall  
                     9:15 am   Agape, Music Center  
                     1:00pm   Friday at Fox Run, Fox Run

Sat. 9/23

Sunday 9/24	8:45 am	Kerygma, Gathering Room
	9:00 am	Children & Youth Meeting, Gathering Rm.
	10:00 am	Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live
	10:15 am	Children's Sunday School, Education Wing
	11:15 am	Congregational Meeting, Boll Hall
	11:30 am	Opportunity Sunday, Boll Hall
	3:00 pm	APEX & GAP Youth Groups, Presbyterian Villages