



**August 23, 2026**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Baptism of Louise Carol Gessert**

**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, or back pillow, the ushers will be happy to assist you.

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 also stop by the Welcome Center desk to receive a welcome bag.

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

*De Voix Humaine*

Jacques Boyvin

### Announcements

#### Introit

*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*  
Summer Choir

**#353**

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

One: We give thanks to God with all our hearts,

**All: for God's faithful love endures forever.**

One: We sing praises to the Lord, with all our strength,

**All: for God's promises declare God's goodness to all the earth.**

One: We place our trust in God with full confidence,

**All: and we come to worship with hearts full of praise.**

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

#### **\*Hymn**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

**#14**

### Call to Confession

#### Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your purposes. You set a path for us to follow, but we conform to the ways of this world. You give each of us gifts to use for the work of your kingdom, but we wait for others to do what needs doing. Forgive us for taking the easy way out and renew in us the eagerness and energy to serve.

*(Silent Confession)*

### Assurance of Forgiveness

#### Children's Message

Stephen Flavin

## Presentation

Louise Carol Gessert,  
daughter of Jack and Danielle Gessert

## Sung Response

*Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing*      **#475**

### Verse 1

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing;  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unchanging love!**

## Prayer for Illumination

## Scripture Readings

### First Scripture Reading—Romans 12:1–8

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

### Second Scripture Reading—Matthew 16:13–20

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

<sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the

Messiah, the Son of the living God.”<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.”<sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.<sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”<sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Jacqueline Spycher

**Call for the Offering**

**Offertory**

*Open Thou My Eyes*  
Summer Choir

Lancelot Andrews

**\*Doxology**

**#607**

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

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*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** *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound* **#766**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sung Response**

*Soon and Very Soon*

**#384**

**Postlude**

*Fugue in B Minor*

J.S. Bach

\* Please rise in body or spirit.

## ***To The Glory of God...***

*The flowers in the chancel are given by  
David and Kathi Jerome in loving  
memory of Ruth, George, and  
Betty Jerome.*



### **Worship Leaders and Staff:**

#### Program Ministry

Rev. Jacqueline Spycher, Senior Pastor

Stephen Flavin, Director of Congregational Care, Youth, & Children

#### Music Ministry

Tom Bowman, Children's Choir Director

Dr. Jerry Custer, Chancel Choir Director

Nancy Plumley, Te Deum Handbell Director

Dr. Dave Wagner, Organist/Accompanist

#### Liturgist

Beth Heberlein

#### Preschool

Lisa Higley, Director

Cynthia Korpela, Assistant Director

#### Office Staff

Kelly Sartorius, Church Administrator

Kelly Clarke, Accounting Clerk

Hannah Johnson, Communications Associate

#### Sextons

Nicole Andreolli, Sunday Sexton

Zak Bugosh, Sexton

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# IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

**Congregation:** Marilyn Atkinson; Barb Bakewell; Judy & Ron Blackburn; Phil & Ginny Cavaretta; Rev. Jamie Faile; Sarah French & family; Carol Geake and the family of Bob Geake; Neyssa Gill; Neil Hollister; Ron & Lois Housman; Barb Johnson; Donna Kennedy; Mary Kirn; the family of Maxine Lapham; Dale Robison; Karen Seaman; Sandi Smith; The Strom and Gessert Families; Darleen Sweeney; June Tervo; Linda Todd; The Ward Family; Dick Werther; Debbie Wood.

**Friends and Family:** Melissa Altomare (sister of Debby DeLaby); Steve Atallah (husband of Elaine Atallah); James Atkinson Jr. (son of Marilyn Atkinson); Carolyn Blaszcowski (friend of Deb and Tim Gammons); Jeff Brown (friend of Dick Werther); Peg Custer (mother of Jerry Custer); Rick De Hart (friend of Georgeann Stringer); Brant Doty (brother of Tim Doty); Annette Duchamp (mother of Vivienne Ward); Elisabeth Fannin (granddaughter of Marilyn Atkinson); Sarah Gilbert (friend of Pastor Jackie); Stan Gill & family (brother of Bev Hines); Susan Grant (friend of Coline Coleman); Dick Grignon (relative of Deb and Tim Gammons); Andy Gutman (friend of Kathy Gricius); Connie Hassaballa (sister of Sandy Robison & Judy Russell); The Henderson Family (relatives of Tammy Fulton); Lynne & Mark Ivankovics (sister-in-law & brother-in-law of Tim Doty); Jaxson Lindquist (grandnephew of Ann Werther); Makayla (granddaughter of Neyssa Gill); Kim Myers (sister-in-law of Denise Myers); Dave Nickel (son-in-law of Kathy Gricius); Nina & Nikolai (residing in Ukraine, relatives of Marcia Booth); Wes & Penny Norton (parents of Guy Sartorius); Barbara Onofrio (friend of Georgeann Stringer); Marshall Riggs (nephew of Sean & Stephanie Smith); Carol Sarver (friend of Bev Hines); Kathy Schillaci (friend of Kathy Gricius); Alicia Sims (mother of Lexanna Sims); Mary Spranger (stepdaughter of Bev Hines); Billy & Trish Stamper (family of Neyssa Gill); Marie Wilkie (sister-in-law of Coline Coleman); Terry Wingblad (friend of Darleen Sweeney); Randy Wisner (cousin of Darleen Sweeney); Cathy Yount (daughter of Marilyn Atkinson).

## 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.***

Cards are available for the congregation to sign on the **third Sunday** (or occasionally the second Sunday) of each month.

# The Bulletin Board

**Church Closure: Thursday, August 27**—The Church Street construction will cause our building to experience water service interruptions on Thursday, August 27. As a result, the building will be closed. All in-person church activities will be canceled this Thursday.

**Blessing of Backpacks and Beyond**—All are invited to bring a backpack, purse, briefcase, sports bag, or other “holder of important things” to worship next Sunday, August 30. Each of you will receive a blessing that is meant to help you keep the words and actions of Jesus with you, whether in school, at work, at an activity, or at home. Children having backpacks blessed may then go to the Narthex to pick out a new FPCN pencil and a writing pad.

**Summer Choir**—Anyone and everyone is cordially invited to drop in on Sundays to rehearse at 9 a.m. and sing at 10 a.m. No robes. No formality. No long-term commitment. Families are encouraged to take part. The last day of Summer Choir will be next Sunday, August 30.

**Children’s Sunday School Schedule**—Children’s Sunday School is paused for the summer. During the summer months, your children will be able to either go back to the Toddler Room or remain in worship.

**Agape Women’s Bible Study.** Please join us for *James: Living a Life of Genuine Faith* by Jen Wilkin. The format is a downloadable workbook (which we can print out for you) along with an audio download ([tinyurl.com/2ve64an2](https://tinyurl.com/2ve64an2)). Please scan the QR code to access the workbook. We will meet on Fridays from 9:30–11 a.m. in the Gathering Room. Our first get together is Friday, September 11. The study starts on September 18. All are welcome, so bring a friend. For more information contact Carol Maise or Gretchen Mizerowski.



**Crossroads Gala**—Crossroads of Michigan, our ministry partner, is hosting its signature annual fundraising event, “Modern Love: A Mid-Century Gala,” at the Roostertail in Detroit beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 17. Celebrating mid-century style and community compassion, the retro-themed evening features live entertainment and aims to raise funds for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and poverty. Ticket sales directly support essential services, including nutritious meals, emergency food, clothing, hygiene supplies, ID assistance, transportation, and housing navigation. Please scan the QR code for more information and to purchase tickets.





# Oakway Children's Choir: Fall 2026 Semester

## Calling Young Voices



Children ages 5–14

Learn vocal skills, music literacy,  
and performance confidence  
while having fun!

**Semester begins September 8**

15 weeks — \$200

Weekly rehearsals  
Tuesdays from 6–7 p.m.  
September 8–December 15

Want to try the choir before signing up? You are invited to drop in to any of the first three rehearsals at no cost to you!

**For questions or scholarship applications, please contact  
Tom Bowman, Oakway Children's Choir Director, at  
[tombowman@fpcnorthville.org](mailto:tombowman@fpcnorthville.org)**

A program of

**First  
Presbyterian  
Church of Northville**



Rehearsals held at FPC Northville  
200 E. Main St., Northville, MI 48167  
(Enter the building from Hutton St.)

Register today!



[www.oakwaychoir.org](http://www.oakwaychoir.org)

# FPC Northville All Church

# PICNIC

Sunday, September 13

**Coffee hour at church:** 11:00–11:15 a.m.

**Picnic time:** 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

**Food served:** Starting at 11:45 a.m.

Location: Waterford Bend Park  
(on the corner of 6 Mile & Northville Rds.)

*Wear your picnic clothes and pack your lawn chairs!*

**FAMILY FUN | GAMES | FOOD**

**RSVP** by using the Google Forms link  
(included in the Friday email) or by  
filling out the sheet in the pews.

**Donations & help wanted!** Let us know  
when you RSVP if you can help (setup,  
clean up, serving) and/or donate  
individual bags of chips or money.

Questions? Contact  
Lynn Betker or  
Debbie Dunbar.

Water &  
iced tea  
provided



# *Are You Feeling Called to Lead?*

One of the distinctive attributes of the Presbyterian Church is its governance. Our structures and leadership embody our theology — that everyone is called to serve the gospel in different ways, whether through public acts like preaching or quieter gifts like caregiving or administration. With this core belief, we trust that the Holy Spirit is at work, guiding those in our faith family with specific gifts to prepare them for leadership.

*Would you offer your gifts to serve the church?*

## **What's needed:**

- ♦ **Elders:** Members of the Session and liaisons to committees who meet monthly to discuss and discern leadership decisions of the church; 3-year term
- ♦ **Deacons:** Our caregivers provide encouraging words and support through calls, cards, prayers, flowers, and acts of service; 3-year term
- ♦ **Endowment Committee, at-large member:** Meet at least quarterly to oversee our endowed funds and approve disbursements for committees; 3-year term
- ♦ **Congregational Nominating Committee:** Prayerfully seeks new leaders for 2028; 1-year term

If you feel called to any of these roles or would like to nominate someone, please contact a member of the Congregational Nominating Committee: Pam Clarkson, Adam Danes, Laurie Doner, Gretchen Mizerowski, Jim Ward, and Pastor Jackie. The slate of nominees will be voted on by the congregation at our Annual Meeting on September 27, 2026.



## WEEK OF AUGUST 23, 2026 — AUGUST 30, 2026

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|             |          |                                                                                                           |
|-------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun. 8/23   |          | <b>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost and Baptism of Louise Carol Gessert</b>                              |
|             | 8:45 am  | Kerygma, Gathering Room                                                                                   |
|             | 10:00 am | Worship, Sanctuary and Facebook Live                                                                      |
|             | 11:00 am | Coffee Hour, Boll Hall                                                                                    |
| Mon. 8/24   |          |                                                                                                           |
| Tue. 8/25   | 12:00 pm | Rotary, Boll Hall                                                                                         |
|             | 4:00 pm  | Nominating Committee, via Zoom                                                                            |
|             | 7:00 pm  | Caregivers Group, Youth Room                                                                              |
|             | 8:00 pm  | AA Meeting, CLC                                                                                           |
|             | 8:00 pm  | Al-Anon Meeting, Boll Hall                                                                                |
| Wed. 8/26   | 8:00 am  | Men's Morning Small Group, via Zoom                                                                       |
|             | 10:00 am | Walking Group, Ford Field (Northville)                                                                    |
| Thurs. 8/27 |          | <b>Church Closed</b>                                                                                      |
| Fri. 8/28   | 1:30 pm  | Fourth Friday at Fox Run, Fox Run Senior Living                                                           |
|             | 4:00 pm  | Petreanu/Vig Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary                                                                 |
| Sat. 8/29   | 4:00 pm  | Petreanu/Vig Wedding, Sanctuary                                                                           |
| Sun. 8/30   |          | <b>Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Baptism of James David Schickler, and Blessing of the Backpacks</b> |
|             | 8:45 am  | Kerygma, Gathering Room                                                                                   |
|             | 10:00 am | Worship, Sanctuary and Facebook Live                                                                      |
|             | 11:00 am | Coffee Hour, Boll Hall                                                                                    |