

# 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

August 31, 2025

9:00 a.m.

*Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a warm greeting of Christian Fellowship to you. If you are visiting with us, please introduce yourself to the pastor following the service.*

\*Congregation standing for those who are able

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Friendship pads and pass them back to the center aisle.  
After worship please greet your neighbors by name.

## Our Approach to God

Prelude Rhosymedre R. V. Williams

The Call to Worship

Whoever you are, you are welcome here. We are all one in Christ Jesus.

**Visitor, seeker, and old-timer alike, young, and old, boys and girls, women, and men, we are all welcome here.**

If you are thirsty for God, here is a well of refreshment. If your life is beginning to fray, come and find here the garments of grace.

**Let us worship God!**

\*The Hymn of Praise *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* 464

\*The Prayer of Confession (unison)

**God who casts out demons, offers healing and welcomes us into your household, we come this day aware of the many ways we stray from your path for us. All too often we do what we know we should not and do not do that which we should. We come to this place thirsty for your love and grace. Welcome us, O God. Forgive us, and affirm in each of us that we are your children.** (Silent confession)

\*The Assurance of Pardon

The Mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you

in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**May the mercy of God, who forgives our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in**

**eternal life.**

Friends, believe the Good News of the Bible:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\*The Gloria Patri *Glory Be to the Father* 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

**Amen. Amen.**

The Special Music Precious Lord, Take My Hand T. Dorsey  
sung and played by Wally Schmidt

## The Word of God

The Psalm Psalm 42 page 805

The Time with the Children Marsha Bennett

The Gospel Reading Luke 8:26-39 page 1472

The Old Testament Reading 1 Kings 19:1-15a page 508

The Sermon A Voice in Our Caves Rev. Janice Chambers

## Our Response to Serve

\*The Affirmation of Faith The Apostle's Creed (Ecumenical) Hymnal, page 14

\*The Hymn *I Come with Joy* 507

The Morning Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (using sins)

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory Andante religioso *from* Sonata 4 in B-Flat F. Mendelssohn

\*The Doxology

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*The Prayer of Dedication

\*The Hymn *Come, Labor On* 415

\*The Charge and Benediction

\*The Congregational Response *Go with Us, Lord* 535

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,  
That in Your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to You.**

\*Postlude Fugue in C Minor, BWV 582 J. S. Bach

\* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

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**Liturgist :** Adam Engel

**Ushers:** Adam Engel, Karen Kalina, Cheryl Kelley, and Sayre Nichol

**Greeter:** Diane Kemerer

**Fellowship Hour:** Anne & Wally Schmidt

**Musical Talents:** Thomas Heidenreich – Director of Music Ministry and Wally Schmidt, banjo, and vocals

**Please join us immediately following worship in the gathering area for fellowship hour.**

We are so pleased to have Rev. Janice Chambers with us today. We are grateful for her willingness to share her time and ministry with us. Rev. Chambers, we welcome you to our pulpit and thank you for leading us in worship today.

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# Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

August 31, 2025



*Seeking and Serving Christ. We are a Place for Growing Christians.*

## *Announcements and Upcoming Events*

- The church office will be **closed Monday, September 1** in observance of Labor Day. **The office will be open Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** but, as unforeseen circumstances may occur, please call 989-792-1023 to be sure that someone is in the office before you drive to the church.
- During this time of transition, we will use a new method of collecting prayer requests for Sunday worship. If you have a prayer request, please **PRINT** the name of the individual you wish the congregation to pray for on a slip of paper and place it in the box at the front of the sanctuary. This must be done **BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS** as the box will be emptied at some point during the service. Names will not be carried over from one week to the next.
- **Next Sunday, September 7, Rev. Mike Hahn will fill our pulpit.**



### **Music and Worship:**

- **The signup sheets are out for September.** Please sign up to Greet, Usher, be a Liturgist, or host and serve Fellowship Hour . We need your help on Sunday mornings. Please see Chuck Kemerer, Cheryl Kelley, or Deb Easlick if you have any questions.
- **Choir Rehearsals will resume** Wednesday September 10 @ 7:00 p.m.

### **2nd @ Second News:**

Please join us in the library at 10:15 a.m. Sunday September 14 to choose one of the available topics for the adult Bible study program. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ Second meets on Sundays following worship in the church library for about an hour. A video, or audio, presentation followed by group discussion is the typical format. If anyone else is interested in leading 2<sup>nd</sup> @ Second, let Marsha or Kitty know.

## Rescue Mission Lunches:



Saturday, **September 6**, please join us in the church kitchen to assemble bag lunches for the Saginaw Rescue Mission. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the church kitchen (Please enter from parking lot through Fellowship Hall door) to visit and share in the work of making sandwiches and lunches for those struggling with hunger.

## September Mission Focus:

The September mission focus will be the ministry serving the Saginaw County Jail "It's All About the Cross." Chaplain Andy Cox, (Formerly of Forgotten Man Ministries) will be at SPC on Sunday, September 14 to explain the ministries work during the "Mission Moment." and to answer any questions immediately following the service. Our mission focus will be books for this ministry. Books must be soft cover (no staples) with a positive theme, such as inspirational/self-help books, or literature encouraging inmates to grow in their faith. They also accept puzzle books or magazines, such as crosswords or word searches. In addition to collecting books, we will also donate Bibles to the ministry to help in their outreach to those in jail. For more information on the ministry work of "It's All About the Cross," visit <http://www.crosssaginaw.org>.

## PNC Nominations:

The Nominating Committee is looking for members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). If you know someone you feel would be a good representative of our congregation on this committee, please nominate them (or yourself!) using the slip in the bulletin and placing it in the offering plate. **The Nominating Committee will be collecting names through Sunday, September 14th.** Members of the PNC should be prepared for a commitment of at least 1 1/2 years that could involve weekly meetings to start. PNC members also need to have an email address and be proficient with computers. **Please be aware that nominating someone does not automatically mean they will be on the committee.** If you have any questions, you can reach out to the members of the

Nominating Committee: Christy Higley, Samantha Engel, Genie Herter, Fred Herter, Carol Poole, Tom Poole.

## Psalms 42

- <sup>1</sup> As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so my soul pants for you, my God.
- <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When can I go and meet with God?
- <sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food  
day and night,  
while people say to me all day long,  
"Where is your God?"
- <sup>4</sup> These things I remember  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I used to go to the house of God  
under the protection of the Mighty One  
with shouts of joy and praise  
among the festive throng.
- <sup>5</sup> Why, my soul, are you downcast?  
Why so disturbed within me?  
Put your hope in God,  
for I will yet praise him,  
my Savior and my God.
- <sup>6</sup> My soul is downcast within me;  
therefore I will remember you  
from the land of the Jordan,  
the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.
- <sup>7</sup> Deep calls to deep

in the roar of your waterfalls;  
all your waves and breakers  
have swept over me.

<sup>8</sup> By day the LORD directs his love,  
at night his song is with me—  
a prayer to the God of my life.

<sup>9</sup> I say to God my Rock,  
“Why have you forgotten me?  
Why must I go about mourning,  
oppressed by the enemy?”

<sup>10</sup> My bones suffer mortal agony  
as my foes taunt me,  
saying to me all day long,  
“Where is your God?”

<sup>11</sup> Why, my soul, are you downcast?  
Why so disturbed within me?  
Put your hope in God,  
for I will yet praise him,  
my Savior and my God.

## Luke 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup> They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. <sup>27</sup> When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!” <sup>29</sup> For Jesus had commanded the

impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him. <sup>31</sup> And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

<sup>32</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

<sup>34</sup> When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, <sup>35</sup> and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus’ feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. <sup>36</sup> Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. <sup>37</sup> Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

<sup>38</sup> The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

## 1 Kings 19:1-15

<sup>19</sup> Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”

<sup>3</sup> Elijah was afraid<sup>[a]</sup> and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, <sup>4</sup> while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have

had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." <sup>5</sup> Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." <sup>6</sup> He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." <sup>8</sup> So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>9</sup> There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

<sup>10</sup> He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

<sup>14</sup> He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

<sup>15</sup> The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.