

# 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

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.*

\*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.

## Our Approach to God

Prelude

O Gott, du frommer Gott

Johannes Brahms

The Call to Worship

We gather as God's sheep, for Christ is our Good Shepherd.

**The Good Shepherd knows his sheep and his sheep know him.**

**The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.**

We gather as God's branches. Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches."

**We remain in him as he remains in us.**

We gather as God's friends. We are no longer called servants, but friends.

**Christ chose us and appointed us to go and bear fruit.**

We gather as Easter people to praise and worship God!

\*The Hymn of Praise     *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*     104

\*The Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God in confidence. Let us confess our sin before God.

\*The Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, you love us, but we have not always loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with pride, quarrelling, and divisiveness. For these and all other sins, we ask your forgiveness.** (silent confession)

**Holy God, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in love and mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*The Assurance of Pardon

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. Jesus calls us his friends and he laid down his life for us. In Christ, our sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

\*The Response

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

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**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His Name.**

The Anthem

*We are Called*

Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

## The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17

page 147 NT

The New Testament Reading

1 John 5:1-5

page 328 NT

The Sermon

We Are God's Friends

Pastor Ruth Estell

## Our Response to Serve

\*The Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

hymnal, page 14

\*The Hymn

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

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The Mission Moment

River Jordan

Aland Stamps

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                      III. Allegro non troppo                      Charles V. Stanford

\*The Doxology                      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*                      592

**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, Christians, Join to Sing*                      150

\*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                      *Voluntary IX in G Major*                      John Stanley

\* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

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**Liturgist :** Peggy Donaldson

**Ushers:** Pete & Ginny Brucker, Natalie Martinez and Tom Poole

**Greeters:** Wally & Anne Schmidt

**Fellowship Hour:** Ruth Anderson

**Musical Talents:** Thomas Heidenreich, Director of Music Ministry  
and the Chancel Choir

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

### **For The Hearing Impaired**

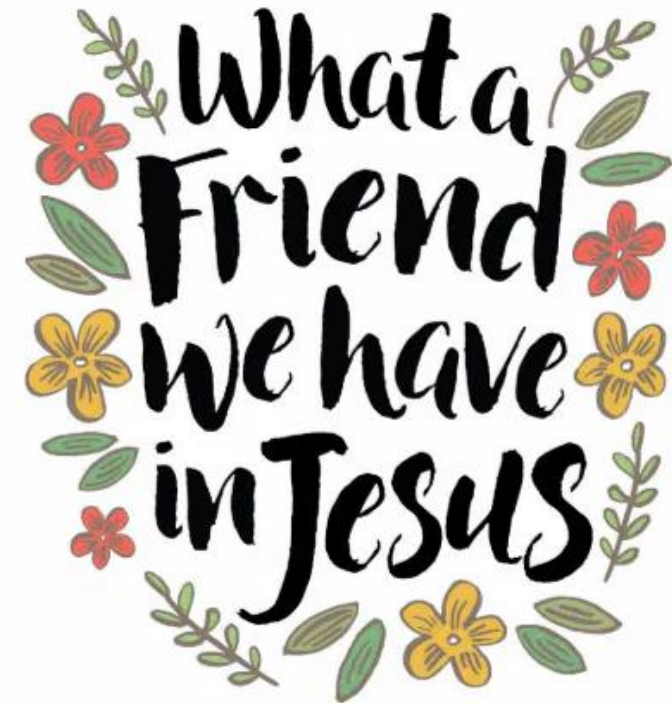
The service audio is being broadcast on 96.7-FM throughout the building and parking lot. Feel free to bring your pocket size radio, with headphones or earbuds, and listen to the service at an audio level that is more comfortable for you.

## Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

May 5, 2024



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

# Announcements and Upcoming Event

## 2<sup>nd</sup> @ Second

Grab a refreshment and join us today after worship in the library as we continue the Great Courses Series on The New Testament.

## May Mission Project



National Foster Care Month is celebrated in May, and the Mission Committee has chosen to acknowledge this important subject by supporting "River Jordan, Inc.," located in Bay City, Michigan, and serving surrounding counties. River Jordan's mission statement reads: "to empower current and former foster youth to take responsibility of their own individual lives and become productive members of society." This is particularly important to those youth 18-21 years of age who have

"aged out" of foster care and require "a safety net", including shelter and support services.

Pamphlets concerning River Jordan's mission and services will be available on the Mission table, and you may also explore their services online at [www.riverjordan.org](http://www.riverjordan.org) and view the YouTube video "I changed my story" of the founder's life story and how this organization came into being. Cash/check donations will be collected during the month of May. There are also volunteer opportunities (if interested, information and specifics found on the website or in the pamphlet).

## New Member Class

A new member's class will be held mid-late May. If you are interested in exploring church membership, please call the office (989-792-1023) or email Pastor Ruth ([pastor@spcsaginaw.org](mailto:pastor@spcsaginaw.org)). Once we know who is interested, we will find a time to meet that works for everyone's schedule.



## Busy Hands and Hearts

Will meet at the church **Monday, May 6 @ 1:00 p.m.** You do not have to sew or knit to join in. If you have any questions, please call Pam Moran @ 989-792-7388.



## Florence Gilmore Circle

All women of the church are invited to join us on **Wednesday, May 8**, at 9:30 a.m. in the church library as we continue watching and discussing the DVD "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Philip Yancey.

## JOB OPENING: Christian Education Director

We are looking for a creative and energetic individual to develop and oversee the educational programs of our church to encourage the spiritual growth of all members. This is a part-time position which would consist of 10 hours per week. A detailed job description is available for review on the table in the gathering area. For additional information please contact a member of the Christian Education Committee: Pam Moran, Christy Higley, or Laura Bosley.



The office is open Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) 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. **Sonia Hoeppepner, Church Secretary, will**

**be on vacation May 9 thru May 15.**

## John 15:9-17 New International Version

<sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

## 1 John 5:1-5 New International Version

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. <sup>2</sup> This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. <sup>3</sup> In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.