

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church



September 7, 2025

13th Sunday after Pentecost

September 7, 2025

10:30 A.M.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Tune in E"

Thalben-Ball

"Be still and know that I am God."

Psalm 46:10

(Please use this time to prepare for worship in silence.)

WORDS OF WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

PASSING THE PEACE

"...I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Matthew 25:35b

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

(The people may greet each other in the spirit of Christ.)

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Our world offers many wide avenues and beautiful boulevards to walk;

Our God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.

Our society suggests we put down our roots in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope, watered by the rivers of joy and grace.

Our culture promotes achievement, success, climbing to the top, and ringing the bell.

Our God tells us the first will be last and the last will be first.

OPENING PRAYER

Our Sovereign God, you have fashioned us into being as a community. Dwell in our midst. Share your wisdom and open every point of receptivity within us. You are holy, gracious, and kind. As we gather, we pledge to shoulder the joys and the costs of discipleship. May you be glorified in our worship, and may we be transformed as we encounter you anew this day. Amen.

*HYMN 5

"God the Sculptor of the Mountains"

JENNINGS-HOUSTON

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Jesus calls us to follow him, knowing that the path is difficult and that sin lurks at every turn. Trusting in God's mercy, let us seek forgiveness that we may follow more nearly in the way of Jesus. Let us pray:

We pray in the assurance that your mercy, O God, is available and near to us. And, we also pray in hope that your mercy will release us from inaction, apathy, and overwhelm so that we may be your instruments of redemption, reparation, and restoration in the world. Forgive us, perhaps most of all, for simply seeking your mercy for the ills of the world rather than your miraculous power to rise in us to overcome them. Grant us grace to pray boldly with our words and our actions in your name. Amen.

Silent Confession

*KYRIE Hymn 437

**You are the Lord, giver of mercy.
You are the Christ, giver of mercy.
You are the Lord, giver of mercy.**

Jesus accompanies us on life's journey, offering abundant mercy and bountiful forgiveness along the way. This is good news! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.**

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

(Page 35, *Glory to God Hymnal*)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE READING FROM THE HEBREW TESTAMENT: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

These words are trustworthy and true.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 14:25-33

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"The Road You Take Matters"

THE RESPONSE

*HYMN 742

"We Will Walk with God"

SIZOHAMBA NAYE

(First, the Choir, then the congregation repeats several times.)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (Unison)

(Adapted from the *Confession of 1967, 9.32-33*)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

**Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant for
Those Uniting with a Congregation**
Gerard Mahoney, David and Sue Micinski

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH
RENUNCIATIONS

COVENANT OF COMMITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

You have publicly professed your faith. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God's help.

COVENANT OF COMMITMENT OF THE CONGREGATION

Will you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ and of the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church of Beulah, Michigan, promise to love and care for Gerard, Sue and David, to welcome them into the fellowship of this church family; to teach them and to learn from them and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, increase their faith, confirm their hope, and encourage them in love?

We will, with God's help.

PRAYER

WELCOME (Congregation Unison)

You come to us as members of the one holy catholic church, into which you were baptized, and by which you have been nurtured. We are one with each other, sisters and brothers in the family of God. We rejoice in the God given gifts you bring to Christ's Church and to us. Welcome to this congregation, its worship and ministry.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"Adagio"

Merkel

*DOXOLOGY/Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (606)

*PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving (Responsive, Congregation please read **bold** print.)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God... joining the song
of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is Jesus Christ our Savior...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...we bless you,
God of glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Meal

Communion Hymn 530

"One Bread, One Body"

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

The Prayer After Communion (Unison)

At your table, Giving God, we have been fed; our thirsty spirits have been quenched. We give you thanks for this taste of your kingdom meal when wolf and lamb will feed together and peace will reign on your holy mountain; in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 765

"May the God of Hope God with Us"

ARGENTINA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (Responsive)

May the God who speaks in dreams and visions
stir in you a holy restlessness
and a divine imagination for the future.

**As we depart this service, may the visions of hope
planted in our hearts sustain us
and give us courage for the path ahead.**

May the Lord, who makes your path straight,
guide your steps on every road and journey.

Trust not in your own understanding,
but in all your ways acknowledge God,
and know that you are traveling
with a great and loving Guide.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

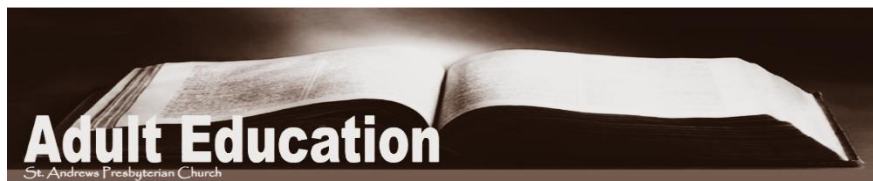
"Triumphant March"

Webber



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Annie Hébert, Pastor
Sandra O'Neal, Liturgist
Barb Newman, Marty Havlin, Ushers
Tom and Lynne Webster, Jeri Bushong, Greeters
Donna and Mike Malecki, Communion Preparers
Ruby and Skylar Anderson, Acolytes
Michael Beery, Music Director



Coming this Fall

Watch your email for signup information. These 3 classes will also be in the September Newsletter.
Books are available in the office for \$10.

Tending the Wild Garden

Eugenia Anne Gamble

In a world fixated on outward appearances, discover the joy of cultivating an inward relationship with the Spirit, where the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) blossom naturally.

Join us on Thursdays at 2pm
September 11 through November 13

Books will be available in the church office for \$10 with Adult Ed covering the remaining cost.
Watch for sign up information!

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

2025-2026 PW/Horizons Bible Study

By Rhashell D. Hunter
Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Wolter

Meet with us at 10:30am
(onsite and online)

Tuesday, September 16	Tuesday, February 17
Tuesday, October 21	Tuesday, March 17
Tuesday, November 18	Tuesday, April 21
Tuesday, December 16	Tuesday, May 19
Tuesday, January 20	

Cost of book is \$10.
Watch for sign-up information!

Join us as we find resilience and joy in a chaotic and stressful world, and rediscover our true identity which is found in Jesus Christ.



LUNCH AND LEARN: CHRISTIANS COMMITTED TO PEACEMAKING

THE EVENT :

Church at the Crossroads is a conference of Christians who recognize that the church stands at a defining moment—Jesus is urgently calling us back to the narrow way of the cross. As violence escalates in Israel and Palestine, and some in the Church use Scripture to justify war occupation, or silence, we must ask: Have we traded the gospel of peace for the false promises of security and comfort? Rooted in Scripture and led by Palestinian Christian leaders—alongside pastors and peacemakers from across North America—this conference invites American Christians to engage in honest reckoning, prophetic reflections, and faithful action.

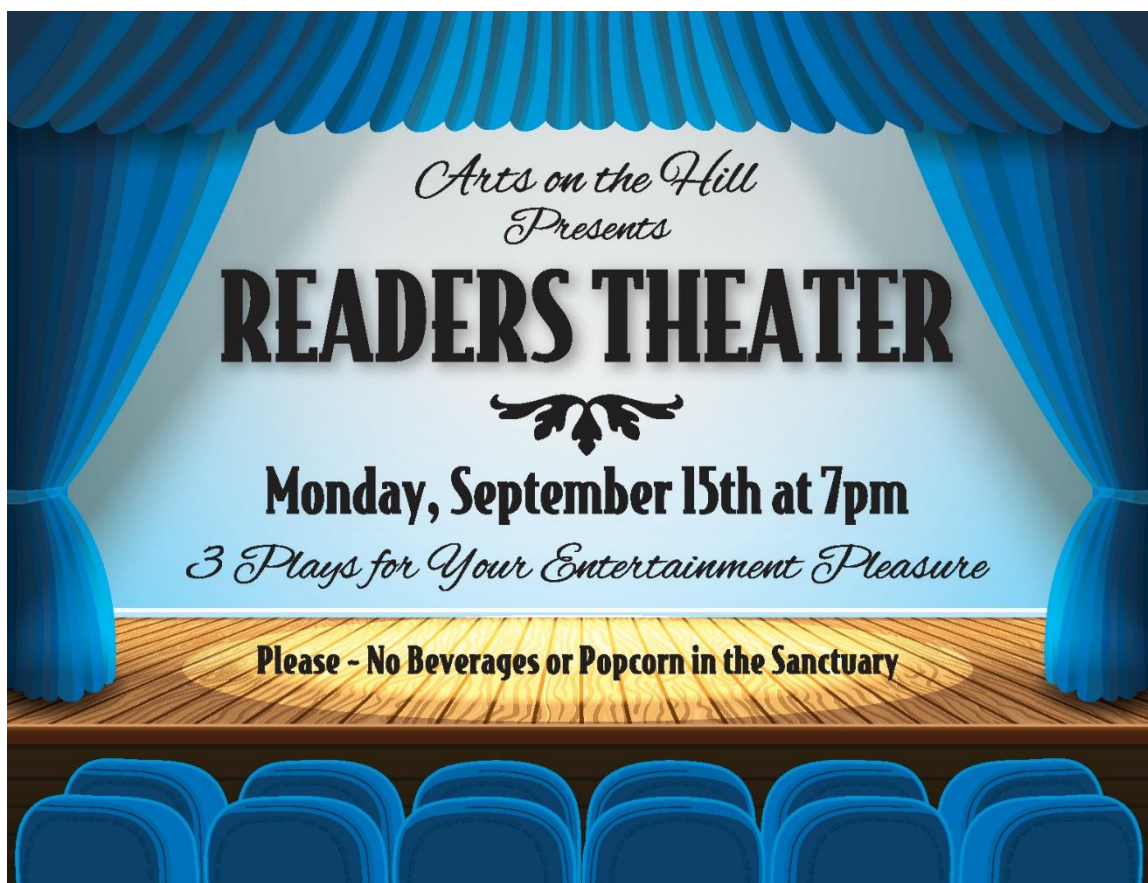
THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ST. ANDREWS' FRIENDS AND MEMBERS:

Join us in an opportunity to learn, have lunch and conversations from Church at the Crossroads Conference. The Adult Education MT and Peace & Justice MT at St. Andrews will be sponsoring a time to gather at our church in Beulah to view the livestream of main sessions from the conference with opportunity for conversation during an optional light lunch.

September 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

11:30 am to 1 pm

Watch for sign-up email!



*Arts on the Hill
Presents*

READERS THEATER

Monday, September 15th at 7pm

3 Plays for Your Entertainment Pleasure

Please - No Beverages or Popcorn in the Sanctuary

Meal and Community Conversation

Mental Health and Addiction in Benzie County



Join Benzie Faith in Action, The Benzie County Sheriff's Office and experts in the field of mental health and addiction to find faith centered solutions to a crisis in our communities

Thursday
September 11th

6 PM

First Congregational Church of
Benzonia UCC, Benzonia MI

Dinner Provided, All are Welcome



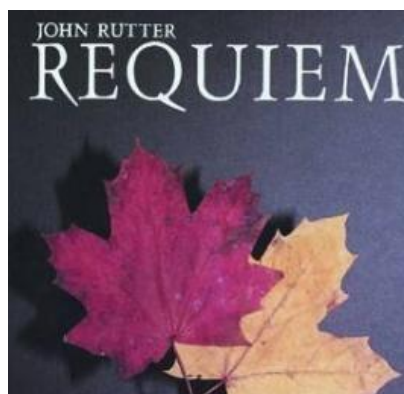
Cohosted by Benzie Faith in Action and
the Benzie County Sheriff.

For info: Luke Allen, Lead Organizer
313-870-7654, luke@michfa.org

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY
Oct. 12
3:00 PM

**Benzie Area
Festival Choir
and Orchestra**



**CASS COMMUNITY
SOCIAL SERVICES**

Fighting Poverty • Creating Opportunity • Building Community

SAVE THE DATE!

Cass Community Social Services Mission Trip
October 14-16, 2025

For information contact:

Judy Harnish at judithharnish@gmail.com

or

Tom Webster at tomandlynne74@gmail.com