Mason First Presbyterian Church

The CORNERSTONE

You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone. Ephesians 2:19-20

June 2026

Worship on the Lord's Day: Sacrament

(Continuing a discussion of various elements in the worship service)

Offering

Christian life is an offering of one's self to God. In the Lord's Supper we are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ for the life of the world. As those who have been claimed and set free by his grace, we respond with gratitude, offering him our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods. Every service of worship shall include an opportunity to respond to Christ's call to discipleship through self-offering. The gifts we offer express our stewardship of creation, demonstrate our care for one another, support the ministries of the church, and provide for the needs of the poor.

Tithes and offerings are gathered as an act of thanksgiving to God. Gifts of food for the poor may also be collected at this time, and the table may be prepared for the Lord's Supper. All of these gifts are received with a prayer of dedication to God, spoken or sung. Because ruling elders and deacons are charged with the stewardship of the church's resources and leadership in ministry to the poor, it is fitting for a ruling elder or deacon to lead this prayer. Signs of Christ's peace and reconciliation may be exchanged, if this did not take place earlier in the service.

Great Thanksgiving

Following the offering and the preparation of the table, a minister of the Word and Sacrament invites worshipers to the Lord's Supper using sentences of Scripture. At the table, facing the people, the minister of the Word and Sacrament shall lead the people in a prayer to the triune God: giving thanks for God's creative power, providential care, and covenant faithfulness, along with particular blessings of the day; remembering God's acts of salvation through Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and promised return, as well as Jesus' institution of the Sacrament (if not otherwise spoken at the invitation to the table or the breaking of the bread); and calling on the Holy Spirit to draw worshipers into the presence of the risen Lord, nourish them in the body and blood of Christ, unite them with Christ in the communion of saints and the Church in every place, and send them in mission to the world. The prayer ends with praise to the triune God. Musical acclamations, such as "Holy, holy, holy," "Christ has died," and "Amen," may be included. The Lord's Prayer follows.

—from The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), "Directory for Worship"

(continued next month)

Session Synopsis

The Presbytery's annual review of the 2025 Session minutes and rolls were conducted. Approval of the 2025 minutes is pending evidence that a financial review was conducted.

The Deacons reported an oversight in not ordering Easter lilies. The oversight resulted in positive responses from those with allergies to the lilies. There will be no lilies next Easter(s).

Pastor Bill reported the Explorer's Class with seven prospective members is completed. Plans are still pending as to when the class will be received into membership. Pastor Bill also noted the Lansing area Presbyterian Churches will be allowed a booth at the Lansing Pride event the last Saturday in June.

The Administration Committee reported that Choir Room roof repairs are nearing completion. The upgrade of livestream equipment continues with a new local vendor. The April yard clean-up was successful in spreading new mulch throughout the several flower beds.

The Mission Committee continues support of the church youth preparing and dispatching 25 PCUSA relief bags. $595 was collected for the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. Two members of the community Friends Group accepted the invitation to attend worship.

The Bridge Builders Task Force is preparing for a second Safe Space Discussion on May 31st. Subsequent discussions will continue in late fall. The Task Force continues to review books now available in the church library.

The Finance Committee provided an update to the status of IRS discrepancies occurring during the months of Financial Secretary changes. Penalties will be settled for unpaid and late payroll taxes and refund of one withholding account.

Parish Life reported the conclusion of Wednesday Night dinners until the fall season. The committee is considering a fall celebration for the 125th year of the church facility and possibly a float for the July 4th parade. The Women's Association provided forty pies for the Mother's Day sale and contributed $2,000 to the Scholarship Fund.

The Spiritual Growth Committee reported on the progress of the Scholarship Commission reviewing scholarship applications.

The annual joint gathering of Session Elders and the Board of Deacons will be on July 10th at the Lang residence.

The next regular Session meeting will be August 20th.

Bruce F Archer
Clerk of Session

Presbyterian Social Witness:
Church and State, Democracy, Religious Freedom (Part 1)

This is the 17th part of a series exploring different aspects of our church's social witness policy.

These policies address issues of church and state, voting rights, electoral and campaign finance reform, and Reformed faith and politics.

1. God Alone is Lord of the Conscience (1988)

For two hundred years, General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church have been concerned with religious liberty and the relationship of church and state. The first General Assembly might well have heard the echo of Hanover Presbytery's mighty Memorial to the Virginia legislature: "We ask no ecclesiastical establishments for ourselves; neither can we approve of them when granted to others." Since 1788, our basic Principles of Church Order have placed in the first position the powerful commitment of our Reformed faith to religious liberty: "God alone is Lord of the conscience.... We do not even wish to see any religious constitution aided by the civil power, further than may be necessary for protection and security, and at the same time be equal and common to all others."

https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/1-god-alone-is-lord-1988.pdf (109 pages)

2. Lift Every Voice: Democracy, Voting Rights, and Electoral Reform (2008)

This report recommends ways to strengthen democratic — small d — promise and practice in the political life of the United States based on principles of Reformed Christianity. Presbyterian political scientists, ethicists and others studied why so many Americans do not vote, despite the 2007 renewal of Voting Rights Act protections against racial discrimination. Remedies include voting machine paper trails, non-partisan election commissions, re-enfranchising former felons, D.C. voting rights, weekend and instant-run-off voting and innovative structural improvement.

https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/votingrights1_0.pdf (32 pages)

3. Religious Freedom Without Discrimination (2018)

Religious Freedom Without Discrimination and the shorter related resolution, The Boundaries of Religious Liberty, draw on the Historic Principles of Church Order (1788) to affirm that religious freedom should be "equal and common to all." They thus build on the long policy statement, God Alone is Lord of the Conscience (1988), to provide contemporary Reformed interpretation of the First Amendment that is both practical and theological. Religious liberty can thus not be claimed to justify "discrimination in the provision of secular employment or benefits, healthcare, public or commercial services or goods, or parental rights to persons based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender, physical limitations, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or gender expression." These benefits would include the full range of reproductive health services. Attention is given to international contexts liable to different forms of government intervention.

https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/religious-freedom.pdf (16 pages)p

I would encourage you to pick one or more of these documents to read and study.

Spiritual Growth

Important Dates

Mark your calendars for our summertime Vacation Bible School July 13-16. We again are joining several Mason churches to combine our efforts, and to allow youth to interact with peers from other churches.

Parish Life

Birthdays in May

Vicki Drown	6/1	Debbie Johnson	6/15
Rex Hauser	6/3	Joan Meinke	6/18
Donna Archer	6/5	Jamie Robinson	6/22
Emelia Hammond	6/7	Monte Shuck	6/24
Katharine Wise	6/7	Marjorie Welch	6/24
Peg Shaub	6/10	Max Harman	6/28
Anita Cote	6/12	Charlie Herrick	6/28
Debi Buchman	6/14	Karen O'Malley	6/29
Luana Foster	6/14	Mary Robinson	6/30
Anna Lee Lavis	6/14		

Deacons

The Deacons are collecting donations for the Mason Food Bank. Items needed this month include barbeque sauce, ketchup, peanut butter, taco shells (soft or hard), hearty soups (of any kind), and canned fruit cocktail. Please bring donations to the table in the Memorial Room. Thank you!

We are still looking for a few more Deacons or Elders (past or present) to help serve communion to our homebound members periodically. Please contact Sandy Leutscher or Bill Pinches for more information. Thank you!

Mission

The Justice League of Greater Lansing would like to invite Mason First Presbyterian Church to attend their 3rd Annual Scholarship Award ceremony on **Saturday, July 25th, at 1 p.m.**

Worship & Music

June 2026 Worship Calendar

June 7	2nd Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Karen Kelley preaching Recognition of High School Graduates Communion
June 14	3rd Sunday after Pentecost	
June 21	4th Sunday after Pentecost	Children's Sermon
June 28	5th Sunday after Pentecost	Two-Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering

Financial Report through April 30, 2026

General Fund Balance: January 1, 2026	0
Income through April	$185,933
Expenses through March	$139,605
Ending Balance	$46,328

General Fund Balance 4/30/2026	$ 46,328
Revolving Accounts Balance	$ 80,398
Reserve Accounts Balance	$ 68,155
Investments as of 3/31/2026	$ 543,205
Net Financial Position (3/31/2026)	**$ 738,087**

Anticipated pledged income through April
$99,642
Actual pledged income through April
$125,637

Graduation Open Houses

An open house to celebrate the graduation of **Jasmine Leffew** will be on Saturday, June 13th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm here at the church. The whole congregation is invited to attend.

An open house to celebrate the graduation of **Lucy Simons** will be on Saturday, June 20th from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at Lucy's home: 11520 Peacock Road in Laingsburg. The whole congregation is invited to attend. Call Sarah (517-927-2594) or Adam (989-307-2317) if you have questions.

Find the latest, up-to-date church calendar at masonpresbyterian.org

WORSHIP AT
MASON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In-Person and Livestreaming at 10:00am each Sunday

Bulletin Submissions are due by 12:00 PM every Wednesday. Submissions for *The Cornerstone* are due by noon on the 20th day of every month. *Please be prompt. Late submissions may not be honored. We are attempting to publish the newsletter the week following Session.*

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.

The CORNERSTONE

Mason First Presbyterian Church
MINISTERS - All Members
PASTOR - Rev. Bill Pinches
PARISH ASSOCIATE - Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus
PASTOR EMERITUS - Rev. Charlie Herrick
SPIRITUAL GROWTH DIRECTOR - Lori Filka
SANCTUARY CHOIR DIRECTOR & BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR - Deb Melse
OFFICE MANAGER -
FINANCIAL SECRETARY - Becky Moots
CHORAL MUSIC ACCOMPANIST - Yinzhe Li ("Ashlyn")
SEXTON - Eric VanDyke
YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Sarah Fay-Koutz
ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR - Michelle Mackey

ELDERS:
2026 - Bruce Archer (*Clerk of Session*), Ginnie Gibson, Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond.
2027 - Travis Archer, Evelyn Tayong, Dan Baker, Steve Sowles.
2028: Mary Garland Jackson, Greg Lang, Suzanne Lang, Monte Shuck.

DEACONS:
2026 - Ron Dlouhy, Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher, Nancy Sue MacDonald, Laurie McGonigal.
2027 - Donna Archer, Rick Cote, Sally Hughes, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielson.
2028: Sandy Diehl, Pattie Yanz, Torrie Yanz.