



For those who want to save their life
will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake
will find it.

Matthew 16:25, NRSV

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

555 Bingham Avenue

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

8.30.26

Rev. Mark Gabbard
Liturgist—Sandy Robbins
Music Director—Kay Boyne / Guitar: David Blackburn



OUR APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE “His Tender, Loving Care” (Callender)

INTROIT “We Are the Family of God” (Byron)

CALL TO WORSHIP

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side---let the people now say.

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us.

The flood would have swept us away; the torrent would have gone over us;

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

We give you all praise, O God of salvation. We come with devotion to you, O Christ our redeemer. We honor you, O Holy Spirit, our source of encouragement; one God who sustains us with your love and your presence. Hear our words of reverence as we bow down before you. Grace us with your presence, that we may learn of your way. Amen.

✠ HYMN “Lead On, O King Eternal”

#724

✠ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, forgive us for allowing living water to be fouled. There are times when we blame you for all our troubles and cast upon you the waste in our lives. Our wants are insatiable through misuse of your mercy; we tap your good graces with unending requests. We let the waters of our baptism become barren and

stagnant; new life cannot flourish when we don't do your will.
Cleanse us through Christ, in whose name we confess to you, and
bathe us with mercy to give us fresh hope. Amen.

✠ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The words of Scripture remind us that “baptism now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” Being baptized into Christ, we may approach God with assurance that Christ intercedes on our behalf, and we may hear once again that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

✠ GLORIA PATRI “Glory Be to the Father” #812
*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.*

✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE
The peace of God be with you.
And also with you.
Greet one another in Peace.

THE CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH
Congregational Life

CHILDREN’S SERMON

ANTHEM “He Was There All the Time” (Paxton)

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING	Test.	Blk pg.	Red pg.
Exodus 3: 1-15	Old	46	62
Romans 12: 9-21	New	142	197
Matthew 16: 21-28	New	16	22

SERMON “Work in Progress”

✠ HYMN “He Hideth My Soul” #611

✠ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us say what we believe.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended to heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the
Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and
the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection
of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

OFFERTORY "Peace in God's Good Time" (Burkhardt)

✠ DOXOLOGY "O Bless the Gifts" **#817**
***O Bless the gifts our hands have brought; And bless the work our
hearts have planned. Ours is the faith, the will, the thought; The
rest, O God, is in Your hand.***

✠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION
**Great Shepherd of the sheep, we confess faith in your mercy as we
bring you our offerings. Use them to further your work. May our
talents be useful in serving your people, and our time filled with
obeying your will. The money we give is in response to your
graciousness. Accept it as part of renewed commitment to Christ.
Amen.**

✠ HYMN "Seek Ye First" **#713**

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ POSTLUDE "Glorious Faith in God" (Sawyer)

WE WELCOME EVERYONE TO THE FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

We pray you'll be nourished in faith as you hear God's message for you. Jesus welcomed everyone; that is our aim, too. Whether you're here for the first time or the thousandth, we count ourselves blessed by your presence. Persons interested in more information about the First United Presbyterian Church, or in joining this congregation, are invited to fill out a 'Welcome' card found in the Book near the entrance to the Sanctuary. Thank you for worshipping with us today.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- ✦ Sunday Worship - 10:00 AM
The nursery is available for your use during the worship service.
- ✦ A Celtic cross (✦) preceding a service element indicates the congregation should stand.
- ✦ **Bold** indicates congregation participation.
- ✦ If you need the Pastor after office hours, please call the church and leave a message on the Pastor's voicemail. If you call during office hours and he is not available, the staff may be able to provide his cell #.
- ✦ Pre-service refreshments are available each Sunday in the Westminster Room.

FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

Hearing assistance devices are available. If you would like to use a receiver, please ask an Usher for assistance.



The Purpose of the First United Presbyterian Church is to:
Invite people to know and glorify God
Grow together as followers of Christ
Serve others through the power of the Holy Spirit

***We ask that you remember these people in your prayer
throughout the coming week:***



Dee LeuVoy, Ronan Mouw, Marge Simpkins,
Dr. Pat Newhouse,
Geraldine Carnahan, all missionaries,
and all members of the
U.S. Armed Forces.

Please keep us up to date on your prayer request.

Unless we are informed otherwise, names are listed for 2 weeks.

FUPC Meetings/Groups—Standard gathering times / or as noted

Choir Practice—Every Wednesday at 5:30pm / Every Sunday at 9:15am

Circle 3—2nd Thursday at 9:30am (WR)

Deacons—2nd Sunday at 11:15am (WR)

Men's Study Group—Every Friday at 9:00am (WR)

Presbyterian Women—3rd Tuesday at Noon (SH)

Session—3rd Monday at 5:30pm (WR)

Textile Social Group—1st, 3rd & 4th Thursdays at 9:30am (SH)

Trustees—3rd Monday at 5:30pm (LB)

Women's Bible Study --- 1st, 3rd & 4th Wednesdays at 9:30am (WR)

Minister: Rev. Mark D. Gabbard / pastor@soopresbyterian.org

Commissioned Ruling Elder: Brenda Ransom

Clerk of Session: Julie Walsh

President of Trustees: Ron Meister

Chairman of Deacons: Jeanne Shibley

Music Director/Organist: Kay Boyne / *Guitarist: David Blackburn*

Administrative Assistant: Maria Price / office@soopresbyterian.org

Sexton: Jason Fuller

Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Monday-Friday

Pastor's Office Hours: 9:15 AM to 12:00 PM, Monday-Friday

555 Bingham Ave.

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

906/632-7771 / soopresbyterian.org



IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY, the church office will be closed on Monday, September 7th.

RALLY SUNDAY will take place during service on Sunday, September 13th. "Rally Sunday" is a special church day marking the start of the new program year, celebrating the return from summer and the kickoff of Sunday School.

2026 STATEMENTS: All Contribution Statements are being **mailed** for the 2nd Quarter 2026. For future statements, please contact Nancy or the church office if you would prefer to receive your Contribution Statement by email. The Contribution Statements for 3rd quarter 2026 will be mailed unless you contact the office for email delivery.

CHOIR PRACTICE CHANGES FOR FALL: Beginning Wednesday September 9th, Choir Practice will be held at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Beginning Sunday, September 13th, practice will be held at 9:15am in the Music Room. Cantata Practice will start on Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Anyone is welcome to join and sing in the choir.

HELPERS ARE NEEDED for the Fall Work Weekend at the Presbytery Camp, the weekend of October 2nd. If you can volunteer or need overnight accommodations, please contact Brenda Ransom or Margaret Eagle.

PLEASE REMEMBER to check our Facebook Page and Website for up-to-date activities and information. If you need any help accessing these pages, please feel free to call or stop by the church office.

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE FOR 8/23/2026 **68**

SUNDAY OFFERING FOR 8/23/2026 **\$ 2713.00**

Friendly Reminders

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **9/6 – Communion Sunday / Soup & Sandwich**
- **9/7 – Labor Day (Church Office closed)**
- **9/8 – FUPC Food Pantry**
- **9/13 – Rally Sunday**
- **9/21 – International Day of Peace**

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY 8/30

9:00am - Social Hour (WR)
9:00am - Choir Practice (MR)
10:00am - Worship Service (S)

MONDAY 8/31

7:00pm - Scout Troop #105 (SH)

TUESDAY 9/1

12:00pm – PW Meeting (SH)

WEDNESDAY 9/2

5:45pm – Youth Group (SH)

THURSDAY 9/3

9:30am – Textile Social (SH)

FRIDAY 9/4

9:00am - Men's Study Group (WR)

SATURDAY 9/5

7:00pm - AA (WR)

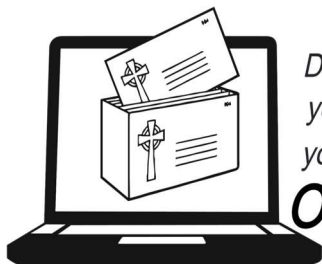
SUNDAY 9/6

9:00am - Social Hour (WR)
9:00am - Choir Practice (MR)
10:00am - Worship Service (S)

***Communion**

***Soup & Sandwich (SH)**

WR-Westminster Room, MR-Music Room, S-Sanctuary, LB-Library, SH-Social Hall



*Did you know
you can give
your offerings*

ONLINE ?

