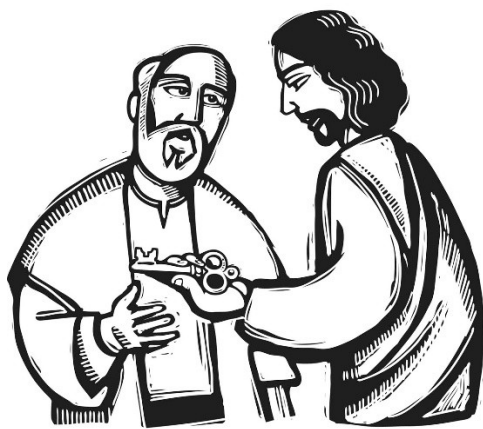


“YOU ARE THE
MESSIAH,
THE SON OF THE
LIVING GOD.”

MATTHEW 16:16, NRSV



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

555 Bingham Avenue

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

August 23, 2026

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



OUR APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE “As the Morning Sunlight Appears” (Paxton)

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

How very good and pleasant it is when families live together in unity!

It is like precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard of Aaron.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained the blessing upon us, life forevermore!

Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

We broadcast your glorious deeds, O God, and spread abroad the good news of the gospel. You have not forsaken your people but promise your presence through the gift of your Spirit. In Christ you redeem us from a past that enslaves us, and free us for a future of life lived in your love. Hear us now as we sing your praises and fill us with wisdom as we learn of your way. Amen.

✠ HYMN “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” #225

✠ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our Source of Deliverance, Christ, calls us to faith, while we seek our own security. He teaches us to trust him, yet we don't take that risk. He expects total commitment, and we think in terms of percentage. Time after time we turn our backs on your grace, serving our idols and forsaking our Christ. We rely on your promise in him to redeem us. We are dependent on him who can intercede for us. O God, in Christ have mercy upon us. Amen.

✠ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As God gave manna to the Israelites during their time in the wilderness, we now receive Christ as the bread of life. As God went before the Israelites as a pillar of fire, we now receive the Holy Spirit as a source of comfort and presence. God is consistently in love with those called God's people. As Christ numbers us among those chosen, we have assurance of God's grace and forgiveness. 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

ANTHEM "Be Aware of Wonder" (Wagner)

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 1: 8 – 2: 10
Romans 12: 1-8
Matthew 16: 13-20

Test.	Blk pg.	Red pg.
Old	45	60
New	141	196
New	15	22

SERMON "Heavy Hitters"

✠ HYMN "Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated" #597

✠ 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 "Near to the Heart of God" (McAfee)

✠ 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

**There are those who would be glad with the crumbs from your
table, O God; we have received your gifts in abundance. Make us
mindful of those who are needy, as we bring you our tithes and
our offerings. Use them to ease the pain of those who are
suffering. As we serve others, use us to fulfill your will. Amen.**

✠ HYMN "Lead Me to Calvary" **#310**

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ POSTLUDE "Trumpet Recessional" (Callender)

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:***



Marge Simpkins, Ronan Mouw,
Dr. Pat Newhouse, Geraldine Carnahan,
all who are sick, all who are traveling,
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



THIS MORNING UNTIL 1:00PM the Soo VFW 3676 is hosting an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet (including beverage). Cost is \$15 per person. All proceeds go to the Veterans trip to the Tigers Baseball Game.

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS: I cannot tell you how surprised and happy I was to receive all your cards, texts, and phone calls for my 80th birthday. Thank you so very much for taking the time to remember me. I do miss all of you. Blessings to all, Roberta Lackey.

PLEASE PASS THE WORD! Our youth group meets every Wednesday at 5:45pm. It's a great time for ministry, food, and friendship for young people ages 6th to 12th grade. Come join the fellowship!

RALLY SUNDAY will be held on September 13th. Rally Sunday is a special church day recognizing a new program year and our Sunday School Kickoff.

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

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! PW will hold their annual bazaar on November 7th. The theme this year is "O Holy Night". Ideas and suggestions for decorations would be appreciated. The bazaar has a Kitchen & Craft Booth, a Bake Sale Booth and a Grandmas Attic Booth. To make the bazaar a success, we need donations for all these booths, as well as items for a silent auction. The best part of the bazaar is the fancy tea sandwiches and cookies. This event is a whole- church function and not just a few members of PW. PLEASE start planning now to help with donations and helping the week and day of the bazaar. Thank you!

A FRIENDLY REMINDER TO ALL...when last to leave the building, please make sure that all lights are off and the doors are closed and locked. Thank you.

ATTENDANCE FROM 8/16/2026	58
OFFERING FROM 8/16/2026	\$3,633.60

Friendly Reminders

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **8/30 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost**
- **9/6 – Communion Service**
- **9/7 – Office Closed / Happy Labor Day!**
- **9/13 – Rally Sunday Service**

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY 8/23

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

MONDAY 8/24

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

TUESDAY 8/25

3:30pm – Food Pantry

WEDNESDAY 8/26

5:45pm – Youth Group (SH)

THURSDAY 8/27

9:30am – Textile Social (SH)
6:00pm – Scout Leader Meeting

FRIDAY 8/28

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

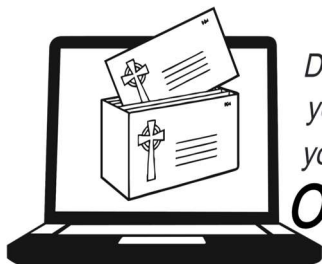
SATURDAY 8/29

7:00pm - AA (WR)

SUNDAY 8/30

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

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



*Did you know
you can give
your offerings*

ONLINE ?

