

THE BEACON

A WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HARBOR SPRINGS



For the Week of Thursday, September 17, 2026

A weekly e-newsletter for the members and friends of FPCHS



SUNDAY SCHEDULE For September 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Psalms 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

Our most significant mission is the gift of worship we offer together on Sunday morning. Our schedule is:

10:00am Worship - Sanctuary
Reverend Hanna Richards

11:00am Fellowship Hour - Gathering Place

Thank You to the Board of Deacons for sharing Hospitality.

Worship God with Us!



FPCHS FOOTBALL TAILGATE PARTY

The Tailgate party has been canceled for Friday, September 18, 2026. We hope that everyone who attends the football game will have a wonderful time. Best wishes to all our Harbor Springs band and football players! Go Rams!

WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING

The Presbyterian Church USA World Communion Offering will be taken on October 4th. Let us be in prayerful consideration of how God would direct us to participate in sharing His blessings.



What does the Lord
require of you,
but to do justice,

...to love kindness

and to walk
humbly with
your God.
Micah 6:8

LEADER'S GUIDE

Reconciling God's people at
the Table of Grace through
ministries of justice.



**WORLD COMMUNION
OFFERING**

2015-2016 34-38



Text **GIVEWCO** to **41444** to support ministries of justice or visit pcusa.org/wco.



SOWING THE SEEDS OF RACIAL JUSTICE

Born and raised on a small farm on South Carolina's St. Helena Island — home to the Gullah Geechee culture, a group of people descended from West and Central Africans who were enslaved — Walter Mack initially left the rural Lowcountry to earn degrees in chemistry and business before returning to his roots. As a lifelong resident, he was determined to safeguard the island's rich cultural and agricultural heritage.

He made a commitment to help preserve the Africanism that was carried over from the slave trade, like the food, religion, crafts and farming for the next generation. In the Gullah culture, for those people without land, there is no culture.

Yet, increasingly, the Gullah people's land and their way of life were being threatened by rampant development. Big industry was not only poised to disrupt the area's native fauna and flora — including polluting its waterways, on which the residents depend for seafood — but the farming families' lives and livelihoods were being systematically undermined by structural racism.

Even though farmers who were Black, Indigenous and People of Color had the same or better produce than other farmers, they were offered a lower price. This happened for years.

That is, until Walter became one of the founding board members of the Gullah Farmers Cooperative Association, in which more than a dozen Black farmers came together to secure markets for their products and to get paid fair prices, as well as to

provide the community with fresh, nutritional foods, including healthy meals for schoolchildren.

The co-op helps farmers with marketing and technical assistance, such as how to package, food safety and quality control, and develop skills in budgeting, farm certification and U.S. Department of Agriculture programs.

To help with funding, the cooperative applied for and received a grant from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to help change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice.

The work of the co-op aligns with the World Communion Offering because of its ability to help preserve traditional African customs, which in turn strengthens its ability to uplift communities by promoting more equitable labor practices and healthier food choices.

Received by many congregations on World Communion Sunday, which falls this year on Sunday, Oct. 4, this new Offering can be celebrated at any time of the year. With its focus on reconciling God's people around the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, it supports the PC(USA)'s initiatives in racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

When we give to the World Communion Offering, we become the hands and feet of Christ's work of dismantling racism, practicing peacemaking and assisting communities in finding their voice. And when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

A NOTE FROM THE DEACONS

Carolyn Whittle is recovering from heart surgery at her daughter's house for the month of September. It would be so encouraging for her to receive greetings from her church family. If any one would like to send her 'get well' wishes, the address is:

5260 Waterfall Lane
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

FOOD OF THE MONTH

FPOCHS is a proud mission partner of the Harbor Springs Community Food Pantry. Each month we collect a specific food item for them; this month is CEREAL. We invite you to place boxes of cereal in the shopping cart located in the Narthex to be delivered at the end of the month. Thank you for your generosity!



WEAR YOUR GRUBBIES TO CHURCH DAY



It is time for another WEAR YOUR GRUBBIES TO CHURCH DAY!

The Building and Grounds Committee is looking for volunteers to help clean up and maintain the church grounds. On Sundays, September 20 and October 04, we will have a grounds clean up day directly after church worship and fellowship hour.

Bring all available STRING TRIMMERS, RAKES LOPPING SHEARS, PRUNERS and TARPS!

Because the church does not have a landscaping service (only a lawn service), the Building and Grounds Committee has decided to launch **Adopt a Spot!** as a new approach to maintain and care for the church grounds. Stay tuned, more information is on the way!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON SEPTEMBER 20 AND OCTOBER 04!

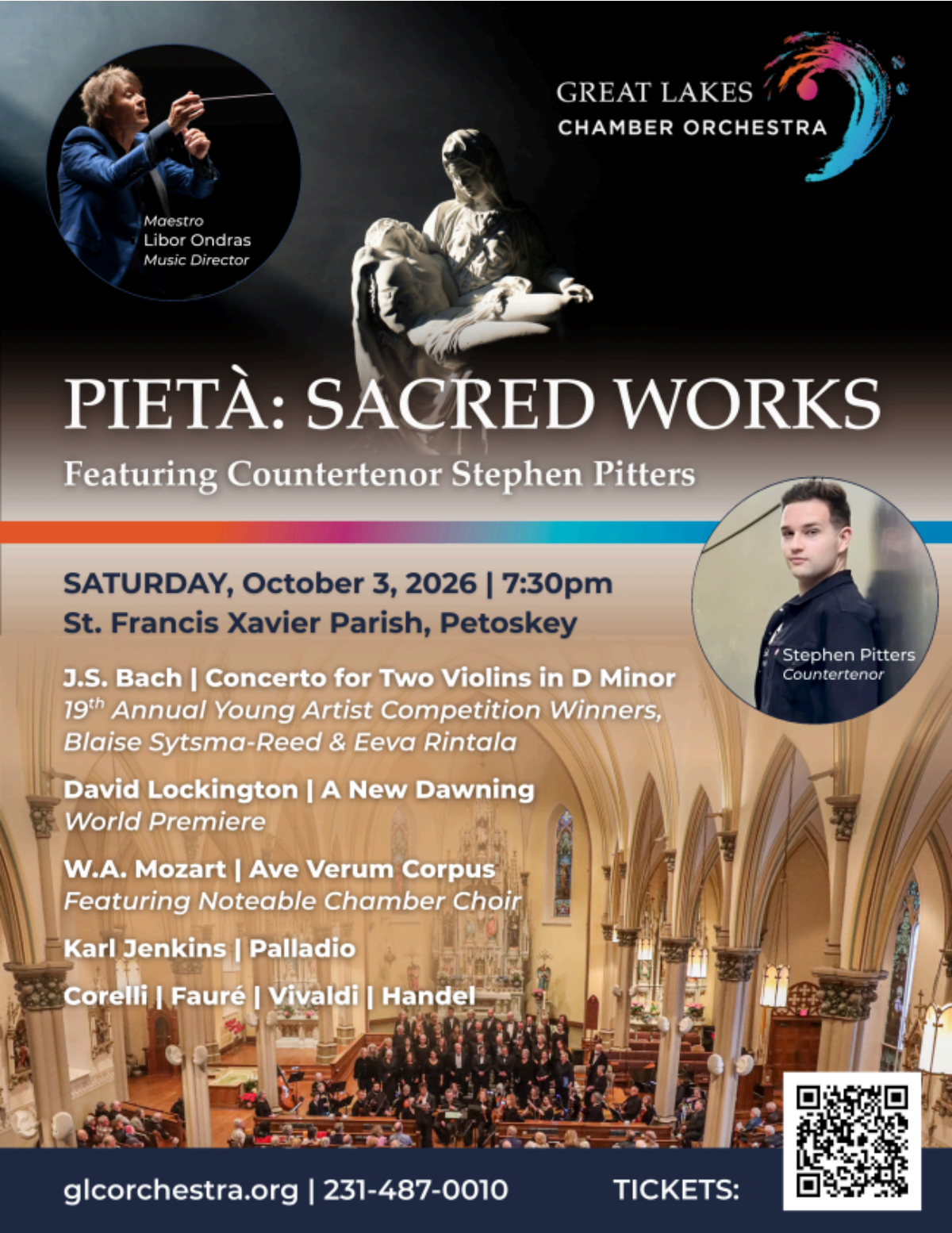
PIETA: SACRED WORKS

On October 03 at 7:30 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Petoskey, the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra is pleased to present an evening of sacred music. The program, *Pietà: Sacred Works*, explores the beauty of sacred music and concerto through the centuries in the glorious

acoustics of St. Francis. The program will include sacred pieces by Handel and Fauré with guest vocalist Countertenor Stephen Pitters, Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus* with the Noteable Chamber Choir, and other works by Corelli and Vivaldi. The concert also includes a world premier by David Lockington and *Bach Concerto for Two Violins* featuring GLCO's 2026 Young Artist Competition winners Blaise Sytsma-Reed and Eeva Rintala.

Tickets (\$40 general admission) are available online at glcorchestra.org or by calling our office 231-487-0010.

Tickets are always free for students 18 and under and for Veterans and Active Service Members by calling the office. Tickets will also be available at the door.



**GREAT LAKES
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

PIETÀ: SACRED WORKS
Featuring Countertenor Stephen Pitters

**Maestro
Libor Ondras
Music Director**

**Stephen Pitters
Countertenor**

SATURDAY, October 3, 2026 | 7:30pm
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Petoskey

J.S. Bach | Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor
*19th Annual Young Artist Competition Winners,
Blaise Sytsma-Reed & Eeva Rintala*

David Lockington | A New Dawning
World Premiere

W.A. Mozart | Ave Verum Corpus
Featuring Noteable Chamber Choir

Karl Jenkins | Palladio

Corelli | Fauré | Vivaldi | Handel

glcorchestra.org | 231-487-0010

TICKETS:



UPCOMING MUSICIANS AT FPCHS

🎵 September 20

Adrian Boyer, Tenor

Maureen Delaney-Lehman, Organ

🎵 September 27

FPCHS Brass Ensemble

Maureen Delaney Lehman, Organ



WORLD COMMUNION PRAYER
FOR SOWING SEEDS OF RACIAL JUSTICE

VERSE OF THE WEEK

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Holy God,

We give thanks for the land and for all those who tend it. May our actions and our giving be a way for all people to experience abundance and to live into the fullness of your peaceable realm right here. Amen.

FPCHS WEEKLY CALENDAR WORSHIP, STUDY, AND SERVICE

Friday, September 18

9:00am-1:00pm Church Office hours

12noon Alanon Meeting - *Gathering Place*

Saturday, September 19

8:00am AA Meeting - *Lower Level*

Sunday, September 20

10:00am Worship - *Sanctuary*

11:00am Fellowship Hour - *Gathering Place*

11:30am Grounds Clean Up Day

Monday, Septmeber 21

9:00am-1:00pm Church Office hours

Tuesday, September 22

8:00am Men's Bible Fellowship (Phil. 1:21-30) - *Gathering Place*

9:00am-1:00pm Church Office hours

9:00am Women in the Word - *Nursery*

10:00am Women's Bible Fellowship - *Gathering Place*

5:30pm Caregivers and Support Group - *Nursery*

7:00pm AA - *Lower Level*

Wednesday, September 23

9:00am-1:00pm Church Office hours

Thursday, September 24

8:30am Men's Bible Study - *Gathering Place*

9:00am-1:00pm Church Office hours

Friday, September 25

9:00am-1:00pm Church Office hours

12noon Alanon Meeting - *Gathering Place*

Saturday, September 26

8:00am AA Meeting - *Lower Level*

Sunday, September 27

10:00am Worship - *Sanctuary*

11:00am Fellowship Hour - *Gathering Place*

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

There are several opportunities for Christian spiritual formation at FPCHS. You are encouraged to visit one or more of them.

Tuesdays:

Women of the Word meets every Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock in the Nursery Room.

Women's Bible Study Fellowship meets at 10:00am. They will be studying the book of Romans following the devotional "Guilt to Grace." If any ladies are interested in joining, please feel free to contact Sue Stackhouse at (231) 526-7896.

Men's Bible Fellowship is a lectionary-based discussion and prayer group that provides support to men and their spiritual formation and faith journey. The sustenance of Christian community is an integral part of this group that meets at 8:00am in the Gathering Place.

Wednesdays:

Community Bible Study meets in the upstairs Community Room at Perry Farm Village on Wednesday at 2:30pm. This is a delightful ecumenical group of Christ-followers praying, studying, and reflecting on the truth of Scripture and its intersection with life today.

Thursdays:

Men's Bible Study is a small group of devotees who enjoy studying the Scriptures. Men are welcome to join them at 8:30am in the Gathering Place on Thursday morning.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS AND STAFF HOURS

Please note that the Church Office hours for 2026 are:

9:00am-1:00pm Monday through Friday

The office hours for **Rev. Hanna Richards, Senior Pastor**, vary due to meetings and visits. Her email address is pastor@fpchs.org.

On Mondays, the office is staffed by **Tisha Cone, Finance Manager**. Her email address is contact@fpchs.org.

On Tuesdays through Fridays, the office is staffed by **Tiera Morse, Office Administrator**. The church office email is office@fpchs.org.

On Sundays and on Wednesday afternoons you can find **Sara Creutz, Youth Ministry Leader**, onsite. Her email address is youth@fpchs.org.

Cleaning Service – Available on Fridays only, other than that we can all chip in to help tidy up.

First Presbyterian Church | 7940 Cemetery Road | Harbor Springs, MI 49740 US

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