

THE BEACON

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

For the Week of Thursday, September 24, 2026

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



SUNDAY SCHEDULE For September 27

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekial 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

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!



FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

Join us for family fellowship this coming Sunday, September 27th. Families with children and youth (infant-High School aged) are invited to bring your coffee/lemonade and cookies and kids to the Meeting Place (formerly the Nursery room) at 11:30am to chat with Pastor Hanna and the Christian Education Team. We hope to have some time of fellowship and learn how we can best be supporting your families.

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.



SEEING OTHERS AS JESUS SEES THEM

For the Rev. Justin Meyers, interfaith understanding isn't just an abstract concept; it's his lived experience. During his 10 years in ministry, he regularly engaged in a wide range of interfaith initiatives, from pulpit exchanges to interfaith justice and social initiatives.

Even so, the idea of taking a position with the Al Amana Centre in Oman, a country on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula — was perhaps the farthest thing from his mind, yet the impact was profound for him, as well as his family.

With its roots in the Reformed Church of America, a full communion partner of the PC(USA), the Centre's work is based on a 130-year collaboration between Christians and Muslims in the Sultanate of Oman. It is one of the few Christian-led organizations in the Muslim-majority world working toward reconciliation and sustainable peace through safe, immersive, interfaith experiences to build capacity to work across differences — both religious and political.

Through genuine and open exchanges, the Centre's facilitated discussions bridge the gap between people of different beliefs and help participants gain deeper insights into themselves. One of the Centre's priorities is to lift up the role of religion so that people can connect, reconcile and build peace within their own context.

The Rev. Dr. Elmarie Parker, a PC(USA) minister and former regional liaison for Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL&W) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), says, "Increasing our capacity to work effectively

across differences of all kinds directly contributes to embodying the invitation of Micah 6:8"

In fact, the prophet's threefold call is at the heart of all three of the PC(USA)'s Churchwide Special Offerings, with Micah's charge to "love kindness" shining a light on the newest of the three, the World Communion Offering. With its singular 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, as embodied by the work of the Al Amana Centre.

"Interfaith opportunities increase dialogue and knowledge," said Luciano Kovacs, Global Ecumenical Liaison for the Middle East and Europe for PL&W. The ministry of Global Ecumenical Partnerships brings people together for work rooted in strong relationships and local discernment that bring fullness of life to all.

The World Communion Offering at its core invites us to something different — to act on a commitment we say has its root and its core expression at the table. This Offering is a way to act: to stand alongside people and organizations breaking down the very barriers set aside at Christ's table.

Just as the Offering seeks the wholeness of all peoples from all nations of the globe, the PC(USA) works with others to connect, equip, and accompany people in shared work and witness for God's work in the world. The table is set, and all are invited! Please give generously.

UPDATE FROM CUBA

In August, FPOCHS donated funds to purchase solar panels and batteries for a fellow church in Cuba. Kathy Bodzick, Mission and Outreach Committee Chair, received a note from Pastor Ryan Donahoe at First Presbyterian Church Petoskey who visited Cuba this last week. He shares how the Presbyterian Church of Guanabacoa was blessed by the giving from our church to theirs.

"I returned from Cuba at 3:30 on Friday morning after a quick trip down there. Things were worse than I expected in some ways and better in some areas as well. What has become abundantly clear is that the churches are having more and more people utilizing them for resources.

One of our friends in Cuba is now going on 50 days with no electricity and no water. Most people turn to the churches for clean water and also to come and charge their cellphones.

They currently have 10kw of solar panels and 20kw of backup battery. However, thanks to the generous gift from FPCHS they are now able to DOUBLE the amount of solar panels and batteries. They had been able to purchase some of the panels and batteries already but did not have the money to do the actual installation and get all the batteries they will need. Pastor Yolkeis was so shocked and surprised when he was talking with me about the system they were trying to get, and then I was able to hand him your gift! He said that was exactly what they would need to get everything up and running.

They've had issues with their lunch program that they run six days a week because the sun was not high enough in the sky when they needed to start cooking to run their stoves. But with your donation they will be able to have the panels and batteries needed so they can start cooking at the appropriate time.

And please thank your congregation for their generous gift. It will make a HUGE difference in the lives of so many people in Cuba.

Blessings,

Ryan"



Solar Panels Currently on the Roof



Solar Panels and Batteries



**Pastor Yolkeis (in checkered shirt)
talking to one of the FPC Petoskey travelers**

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 Sunday, 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 OCTOBER 04!

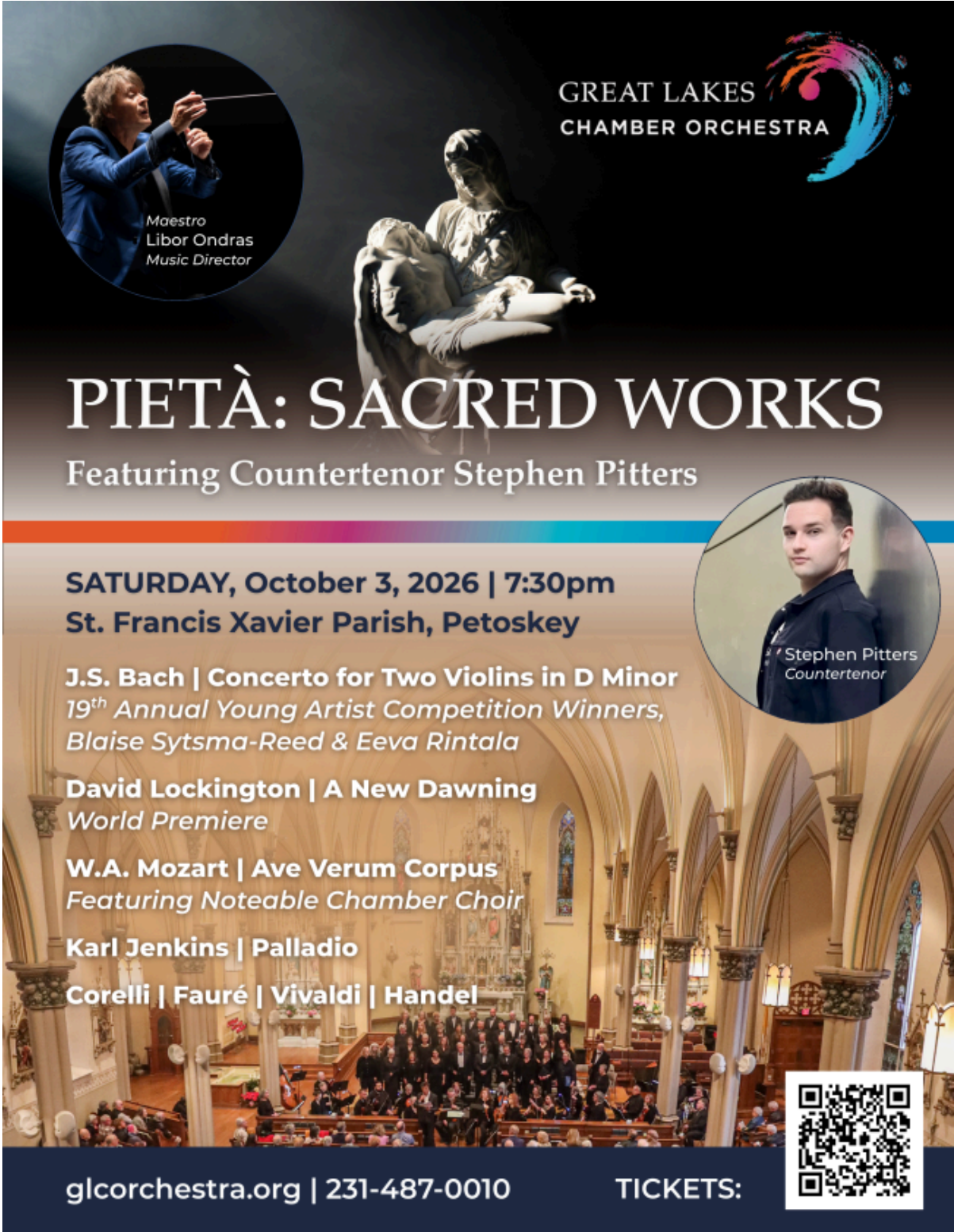
PIETA: SACRED WORKS

On October 03 at 7:30pm 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

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 27

FPCHS Brass Ensemble

Maureen Delaney Lehman, Organ



WORLD COMMUNION PRAYER

SEEING OTHERS AS JESUS SEES THEM

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,

As we come to your table on World Communion Sunday, we thank you for all your servants who enact justice around the world and who ensure that your love is made known. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

FPCHS WEEKLY CALENDAR WORSHIP, STUDY, AND SERVICE

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*

11:30am Family Fellowship - *Meeting Place/Nursery*

Monday, Septmeber 28

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

Tuesday, September 29

8:00am Men's Bible Fellowship (Phil. 2:1-13) - *Gathering Place*

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

9:00am Women in the Word - *Nursery*
10:00am Women's Bible Fellowship - *Gathering Place*
7:00pm AA - *Lower Level*

Wednesday, September 30

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

Thursday, October 01

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

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

Friday, October 02

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

12noon Alanon Meeting - *Gathering Place*

Saturday, October 03

8:00am AA Meeting - *Lower Level*

Sunday, October 04

10:00am Worship - *Sanctuary*

World Communion Offering

11:00am Fellowship Hour - *Gathering Place*

11:30am Grounds Clean Up Day

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 are 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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!