



**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
August 24, 2014**

**Think on These Things Before Worship**

Fort Street's presence in the city:

A Spiritual Beacon in Downtown Detroit

A Spiritual Oasis in Downtown Detroit

A Spiritual Home in Downtown Detroit

Welcoming All of God's Children  
to a place of safety and compassion,  
to a place of challenge and renewal

***Fort Street Presbyterian Church***  
***631 W. Fort Street***  
***Detroit, MI 48226***  
***Phone (313) 961-4533***

*[www.fortstreet.org](http://www.fortstreet.org)*  
*[www.facebook.com/fortstreet](http://www.facebook.com/fortstreet)*

**Gathering the Community**  
*Our focus during the summer months:*  
*“Making space for the Spirit to move powerfully”*

PRELUDE Ray Staroscik  
Pianist

WELCOME Tom Edwards

INTROIT Ray Staroscik

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Cindy Edwards

One: This is the day that our God has made!  
**Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**  
One: The Holy gives us life, and breath, and being.  
**Many: Let us rejoice, and be glad!**  
One: God gives us the diversity of our amazing world.  
**Many: Let us rejoice, and be glad!**  
One: As a community, we come together, rejoicing.  
**All: Let us worship our God.**

\*HYMN # 725 (GG) *“O Jesus, I Have Promised”*

COMMUNITY PRAYER OF CONFESSION Cindy Edwards

**Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS *(in silence)*

RESPONSE IN SONG # 395 (GG) *“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”* (v. 1)

THE ASSURANCE Cindy Edwards

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
**Many: The old life has gone; a new life has begun.**  
One: Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.  
**All: Amen.**

RESPONSE IN SONG # 395 (GG) *“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”* (v. 2)

\*SHARING THE PEACE Cindy Edwards

The Peace of the Living Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## THE WORD

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING      Ruth 2: 19 - 20      Tom Edwards  
*(p. 231 in pew Bible)*  
God's Word for us. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYERS WITH THE CHILDREN      Judith Sheldon

SECOND READING      Titus 2: 11 - 14  
*(pp. 202-3 in pew Bible)*  
God's Word for us. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM      Ray Staroscik

SERMON      **"Commitment and Redemption:  
A Story for All Time"**      Tom Edwards

\*HYMN # 610 (GG)      *"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

## THE RESPONSE

\*AN AFFIRMATION      *(from The Confession of 1967)*      Cindy Edwards

**We believe that God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which we are reconciled to God and to one another. The Spirit enables us to receive forgiveness as we forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as we make peace among ourselves. We believe that in spite of our sin, the Holy Spirit gives us power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and to proclaim the good news of reconciliation to all.**

\*RESPONSE IN SONG # 395 (GG)      *"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"*      (v. 3)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT      Tom Edwards  
*(Feel free to use the language and words closest to your heart)*

OUR OFFERING TO GOD  
*(Loose offering will be used by the Deacons for their work.)*

OFFERTORY      Ray Staroscik

\*DOXOLOGY # 591

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION      Cindy Edwards

\*HYMN # 408 (GG)      *"There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Tom Edwards

*(Please sit quietly enjoying the postlude as part of your worship experience.)*

**POSTLUDE**

Ray Staroscik

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**\*You are invited to rise in body or spirit at your discretion**

This morning, we welcome to the pulpit Tom Edwards. Tom has been a member of Fort St. Presbyterian Church since December 2010 and is currently a member of Session. Tom’s “day job” is Associate Dean for Research in the College of Education at Wayne State University. He enjoys Bible study, especially making connections between the Old and New Testaments, as well as to modern life.

Dr. Mook is on vacation with her family, enjoying a time of relaxation and renewal. She looks forward to being back with you as we begin an exciting fall together here at Fort Street, boldly moving out into our Detroit community.

If you need assistance while the Pastor is out of the office, please contact Lola Fryer Davidson, at the Church Office: 313-961-4533. For emergencies, when Lola cannot be reached at the office, please call Lola’s personal number which can be found in the church directory.

*Thank you for gathering with us for worship this morning. Following worship, refreshments will be served in the Keely Commons. Please join us!*

**SUMMER WORSHIP TIME**

Throughout the summer, worship services will begin at **10:00 a.m.** and be held in the Great Hall, which is air conditioned. Worship will return to the Sanctuary, and to the 11:00 a.m. time, on September 7. If you are visiting during the summer and would like a tour of the church, including the sanctuary, please talk with one of the ushers.

**FALL ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY**

Some Presbyterians, including some Fort Streeters, are questioning positions taken by the PCUSA at the recent General Assembly earlier this summer right here in Detroit. This historic Assembly left some ecstatic with what they understand as justice finally gained in the PCUSA for LGBTQ sisters and brothers. Others are wondering if we, as a denomination, have lost our scriptural grounding.

Beginning in September, you are invited to join in respectful and informed conversation about love, marriage, and sexuality with the Pastor and with others in our faith community. In our conversations, all perspectives will be respected, and all persons will be honored.

For this class, we will be using a recent book by Mark Achtemeier, who shares how and why his heart was changed when he took a personal journey of delving deeply into our scriptures. In *The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage: An Evangelical's Change of Heart*, Achtemeier explains how his in-depth study of the Bible led him from being a conservative, evangelical opponent of gay rights to becoming a strong supporter of a fully inclusive church and of same-sex marriage. As we talk about Achtemeier's new insights into the biblical message, come and discover what message God may have for you at this time in your life.

On **September 14, from 9:00 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. in the McMillan Room**, Dr. Mook will begin leading this several-week-long Bible study. You can purchase the book we will be using online from Amazon, or from The Thoughtful Christian, or reserve your copy by calling Joan Poole, Chair of the Spiritual Life Committee, or Janet Bunt, Vice-chair of the Spiritual Life Committee.

Liturgist  
Acolyte  
Sound Technician  
Videographer  
Reception Coordinator

Cindy Edwards  
Emeka Uduma  
Valerie Edwards  
Randy Commissaris  
Petrie family

**Ushers are available to provide assistance with particular needs:**

Large Print Hymnals  
Hearing Assist System  
Wheelchair Access Ramp  
Wheelchair Seating--locations available in the sanctuary  
Handicap Restroom--using elevator to second floor

**FORT STREET STAFF:**

Judith Sheldon, Director of Christian Education; Ben Ogden, Director of Open Door; Edward Kingins, Music Director; LaMonica Harris, Finance Office Temp; Lola JF Davidson, Secretary; Kenneth McCoy, Building Engineer; Donna Bryant, Bob Haynes, Parking Security; Marilyn Moore, Karen Wright, Donlin Center Staff; Stacey Kershaw, Johnnie Hester, Cheryl Glidden, Open Door Staff.

**Pastor**

The Rev. Dr. Sharon L. Mook, Ph.D.,  
revdrMook@fortstreet.org  
[www.facebook.com/fortstreet](http://www.facebook.com/fortstreet)

**Pastor Emeritus:** The Rev. Dr. Robert H. Crilley

**Prayers for Military loved ones.**

Lt. Harrison L Coleman USN, Taylor Hansen USMC, Jonathan Heyler, SSGT Shanell Howard AFB, Sgt. Christopher King, Capt. Michael Kurtti, Lt. Theo Moran USAF, Alta Morrison, Lt. Jon Palmer USA, Lt. Marty Palmer USA, Charles Andrew Parsons II USN, USMC Captain Katy Spicer Hess, Alexander Szelestey, USMC, Lt. Mark Webster.

**Prayer List for the month of August 2014**

Don/Lois Bardwell, Lynne Bieniek, Derek/Maxine Bloodworth family, Carla Brooks, The Claire family, Yvonne Cameron, Coleman family, Johnny Daniels, Bobbie Edwards, Rose Grosscup, Shannon Howard, Hudson family, Geraldine Adams Jones, Valerie Kimbrough, Leaming family, Lemus family, Don/Virginia Lorimer, Karen Marcil, Cheryl Myers, Sarah Morgan, Jerry Naragon, Derrick Parker/family, Kathy Payne/family, Kevin Pearson, Richard Petrie, Easter Ponder, David Poole, Price family, Lisa Sakkab, Richard/Suellen Sale family, David Shillito, Benjamin Solomons/family, Turner family, Wanda Sumner, Patricia Walsh.