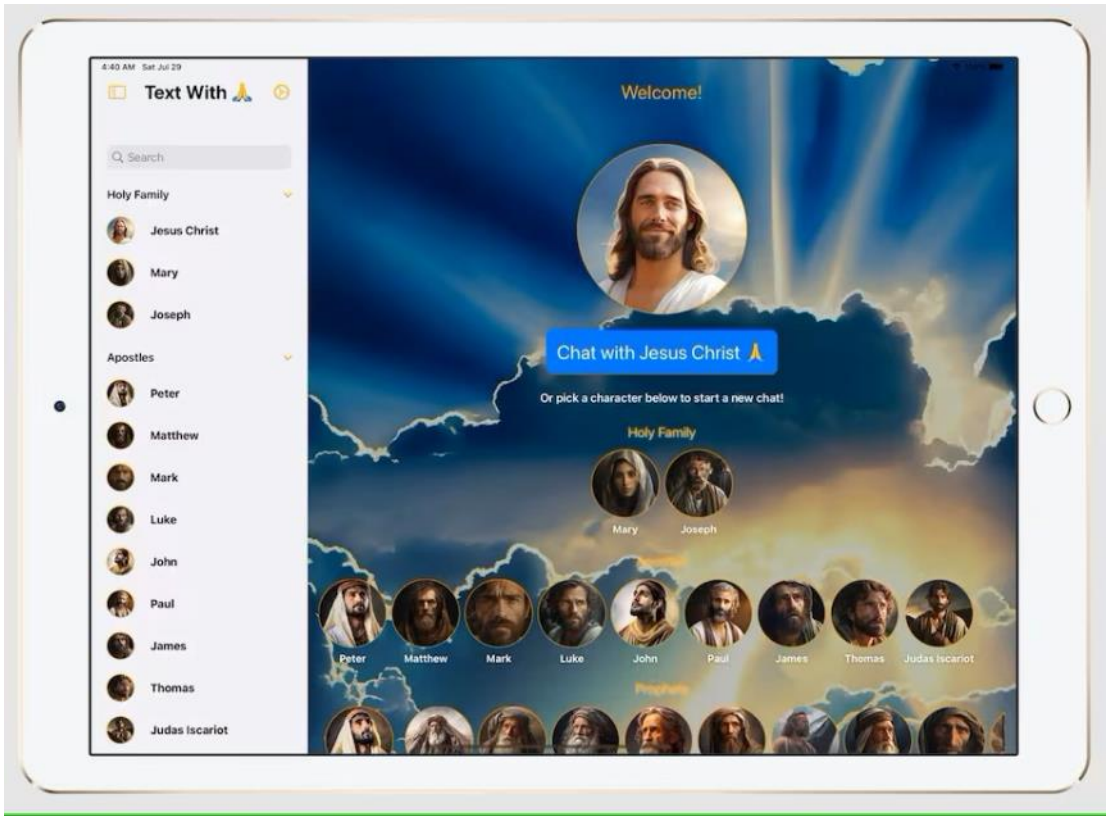


SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
11:00AM — SANCTUARY



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

Thank you for joining us today! We hope you'll return for Sunday, September 17, 2023, at the 11:00am English service in the Sanctuary, or for the 11:00am Korean service in McMillen Chapel (both are available to watch via website or YouTube).

†*Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

PRELUDE Diapason Movement
Elegy

John Keeble
George Thalben-Ball

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Home is not a building or a place we meet.

Home is not just where we came from.

Home is more than people and memories.

Home is more than sentimentality or traditions.

Home is toys on the floor.

Home is a mess in the kitchen.

Home is a welcome at the door.

Home is a hug of acceptance.

Home is the laughter around the table.

Home is remembering promises made in water and spirit.

Home is seeing where God is leading us

and going there together.

Welcome home to First Pres,

where we welcome children, care for each other, and learn how to love.

Welcome home,

where we are better together. Amen.

†**HYMN No. 298** Lord, You Give the Great Commission
Stanzas 1, 2, and 5

ABBOT'S LEIGH

†**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession before God and each other, first in silent prayer.

Let us pray together:

†**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day and offer the truth of our lives:
the fear that stifles us,
the prejudice that blinds us,
the ignorance that hobbles us,
the doubt that plagues us.**

**Help us, we pray, that we will
find courage in unlikely places,
see the world with new and gracious eyes,
move to those places where love is needed,
and have faith that you are with us.**

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

†**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God! **Alleluia! Amen.**

†**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

†RESPONSIVE HYMN No. 591 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

HALLE, HALLE

(Children are encouraged to come forward for the "Time with Children" as we sing the responsive hymn.)

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

hal - le -

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le -

hal - le -

lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Fine

HEARING THE WORD

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Rachel and Jake Huffman,
Faith Formation Committee

TIME WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 12:1-14

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM How Firm a Foundation

John Rutter

Chancel Choir

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent Word! What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled? 'Fear not', I am with you. Oh, be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand. When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow, for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress. When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply; the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine. The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, I will not, I will not desert to his foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 16:13-20

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“AI: Can It Replace Us?”

Rev. Dr. Anne Epling

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

†**PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION**

This world would deny you, Lord, and rely on human wisdom in their search for answers to questions they have yet to ask. But we will praise you, and exalt your name, for we know that you are Alpha, the beginning of all things, and Omega, the end, and all that is between. We have known your healing, we have known your provision, we have known your victory. Our sorrow has turned into dancing and our tears to songs of joy. We shall praise you ever more. Amen.

†**HYMN No. 462** I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY I Love Thee, My Lord

George Shearing

DOXOLOGY HYMN NO. 608 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore." The lyrics are printed below the notes.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, we thank for Your faithfulness. Thank you that we can always trust in You. You are an abundant God, and out of Your great mercy, you have given us so much. We give you this offering today. With it, we worship You and give our whole selves to You. Please now take it and use it for Your kingdom and Your glory. Extend and multiply its reach and influence, we pray. May it be a great blessing to many. We ask all this in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING

†HYMN No. 296 Go in Grace and Make Disciples

WONDROUS LIGHT

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE Procession on the *Te Deum*

Marc Antoine Charpentier

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Kathleen Paddock Offerle by her son, Geoff Paddock.

PASTORS

Rev. Dr. Anne Bain Epling (she/her) (ext. 107)
Pastor/Head of Staff
aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org

Rev. Ann Pitman (she/her) (ext. 106)
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care
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Rev. Maxwell Michaels (he/him) (ext. 135)
Resident Pastor
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Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An (he/him) (ext. 105)
Associate Pastor/Korean Language Ministry
ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org

Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her) (ext. 112)
Associate Pastor
cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org

Prayer List or to Request Pastoral Care: If you or a loved one is hospitalized and would like to be added to the prayer list or are seeking pastoral care, please contact the church office at 260-426-7421. Please let us know if you would like a visit.

Hospital Stays: Hospitals are unable to give us information when a member is admitted. Please be sure to ask someone to contact the church office so that a Pastor may attend to the member in need.

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Greeters: Tony Borton, Jake Huffman

Ushers: Anne Barnett, Dave Beer, Jack Patton, Dan Serban

Director of Music and Organist: Brent Neuenschwander

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Chancel Choir

Live Stream: Marj Sapp

Sound: Courtney Wallace

JOINING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

If you have been visiting with us and feel called to become a member, we are so excited to welcome you with open arms! We receive new members at each Session meeting, held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. This process takes about 20 minutes and includes a chance to share a bit about you and learn more about each of our elders and pastors. Please reach out to Rev. Carrie Winebrenner to coordinate this momentous step in your faith journey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS SEPTEMBER 10, 2023



Join us today for lunch, music, and free activities for children of all ages, including face painting and Kona Ice! Enjoy self-guided tours of the beautiful sanctuary and chapel, and musical selections will be played on our Aeolian-Skinner Organ. Watch First Pres Theater's rehearsals for the upcoming musical "Head Over Heels," meet local artist Hilarie Couture in the Art Gallery, where we are currently featuring her latest exhibit, and tour through the excitement and enrichment in our Day School classrooms!

JOHNNY APPLESEED COOKIES

IT'S COOKIE BAKING TIME! It's time to bake more than 12,000 cookies to be sold at the First Presbyterian Church Cookie Booth at the Johnny Appleseed Festival on September 16 & 17. This is the only fundraiser held each year to support the Day School. Volunteers are needed the week of September 12 – 16 to help bake and pack the cookies. If you are able to give a few hours on any or all of these days, please sign up in the small dining room. If you have any questions, please contact Marj Sapp (260.413.2639.)

PRE-ORDER COOKIES: If you cannot attend the Johnny Appleseed Festival, you can support the Day School by pre-ordering cookies. Forms are available in the small dining room, including instructions on ordering and paying online if you prefer. Cookies will be available for pick-up after 3:00 p.m. on Friday, September 15th.

STEWARDSHIP

Our Stewardship Campaign, “Faces of First: Fulfilling a Future of Hope”, officially kicked off on August 27. Today you'll hear from Jake and Rachel Huffman, who will tell you about the good work the Faith Formation Committee is doing and how your pledges support their work. We hope you will be a part of the wonderful ministry First Pres is engaged in and that God is calling us to do.

BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Bible Study: The Women's Bible Study will begin meeting again on Friday, September 15 from 1-2:30 pm. The study this year is titled: “Sacred Encounters of Jesus in Mark and Luke.” We will meet via Zoom, meeting ID and password will be sent out later. Please contact Rev. Ann Pitman for more information if you would like to join us.

FELLOWSHIP

Return of the HeBrews: We are excited to announce that the HeBrews will be returning starting on September 17th! We will be reading Johnny Cash and the Great American Contradiction! Wearing all black to class is optional. The class is designed for men in their 20's, 30's, and 40's; please reach out to Pastor Max, and he will introduce you to the rest of the group!

Downtown Dinner Group: It's that time again! Dinner Time! The Downtown Dinner Group will meet on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 5:30pm at Hall's Gas House (305 E. Superior St.). Please RSVP to Joyce McGiffin at (260) 409-2426 or by email at krinks52@hotmail.com. All are welcome and we can't wait to see you there!

North Dinner Group: Call me, but don't call me late for dinner! Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday September 11, 2023 at 5:30pm for dinner at The Factory Restaurant (5811 Coldwater Road). Please RSVP to Sondra Mergenthal at (260)437-9892 or by email at lisoninc@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you!

South Dinner Group: Do you hear that? It's the sound of the dinner bell! Please join the South Dinner Group for dinner at Hall's Tavern at Coventry (5747 Coventry Lane) on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 5:30pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

Table Talk (Women's Book Study) will begin a new book on **Wednesday, September 20**. The group meets via Zoom at 10:00 am. We will be reading Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation by Kristen Kobes De Mez (2021). You are welcome to check the public library or purchase the book.

If you have any questions, please contact Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733.

Zoom Meeting ID: 241 730 827

Passcode: 260 426 7421

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Sunday School Today! – During our 11 AM Worship: Calling all kids between kindergarten and 5th grade! Join us for Sunday School with Miss Rachel and Friends! We'll all start in worship together, and then after the Time with Children, we'll all head to our SS room as a group. We hope you'll join us for fun, fellowship, learning, and....of course...Bible Bucks! Woohoooo!

Busy Bags and Littles' Library: We know that worship is not always an easy time for little hands and minds to focus, so we've provided Busy Bags and a Littles' Library! Our Busy Bags are filled with items like fidget toys, activity pages, playdoh, and pipe cleaners. We also invite you to visit the Littles' Library where reading material for a wide range of ages is available to "check-out" during church. All we ask is that the books and the Busy Bags are returned after worship. Enjoy!

Nursery Available for Infants thru Pre-School: Jesus loves the little children, and we do, too! Should you decide that today would be a good time to explore the nursery, your child is always invited to drop in. Ask the office volunteer for a key fob and directions, and our skilled childcare employees will be excited to welcome your child while you worship.

THE ARTS

Music Series: Russian pianist Ilya Yakushev will present a recital in honor of Sergei Rachmaninoff's 150th Birthday and the 150th birthday of Modest Mussorgsky's monumental work, *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Ilya has concertized internationally with major orchestras and in solo recitals. In addition to Rachmaninoff and Mussorgsky, he will play works by Mozart and Beethoven and it will be an afternoon not to be missed! The concert is September 24, 2023 at 4:00pm. We will see you there!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

About the cover image:

A screenshot of the app "Text with Jesus". Stéphane Peter, app's developer, Catloaf Software

Hearing Loop: To use the "Hearing Loop" during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the "T," T-Coil or telephone position. For questions, please call Bill Patterson at 260-609-9696.

**Be sure to look for your favorite class
or activity in the calendar on the back page!**

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HERE IS WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES THIS WEEK!

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00am — 3:00pm and Friday, 9:00am — 12:00pm

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

- ALL DAY WELCOME DAY
10:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, MR
11:00 am Worship Service, SC
11:00 am KLM Worship Service, CH
11:15 am Sunday School, 210
12:00 pm Welcome Day Lunch
12:00 pm "Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown"

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

- 11:50 am (OA), 304
1:30 pm 3B Exercise Class, MH
3:00 pm Faith, Fibers, Fellowship, 302
4:30 pm "The House" YT Rehearsal, TH
7:00 pm "Head Over Heels" Rehearsal, THS
7:00 pm (Stag ALAnon), YR
7:30 pm (AA Grapevine), PR

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

- 9:00 am (PEO 2), 302
10:00 am Staff Meeting
11:00 am Count Team, FO
11:00 am Staff Worship Planning, SR
1:00 pm Fine Arts Committee, SR
4:30 pm "The House" YT Rehearsal, TH
5:00 pm Deacon's Meeting, 302
5:30 pm Mission Meeting, SR
6:00 pm (PEO), PR
6:00 pm (SAA), 304
7:00 pm "Head Over Heels" Rehearsal, THS
7:00 pm (ACOA), 300
7:00 pm (Narcotics Anonymous), 302
7:30 pm (Central AA), MH
7:30 pm (Compassionate Friends), PR

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

- 10:35 am Day School Chapel
1:30 pm 3B Exercise Class
4:30 pm "The House" YT Rehearsal, TH
6:00 pm "Touchy Topics"
Book Discussion Meal, PR
6:00 pm (Music Together), 208
6:30 pm Touchy Topics Book Discussion: PR
7:00 pm "Head Over Heels" Rehearsal, THS
7:00 pm (Narcotics Anonymous), 302

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

- 9:30 am (Music Together), 208
4:30 pm "The House" YT Rehearsal, TH
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal, 201
6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting, SR
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, MR
7:00 pm "Head Over Heels" Rehearsal, THS

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

- 9:30 am Day School Music Class, MR
10:00 am Men's Bible Study, ZM
1:00 pm Women's Bible Study, ZM
4:30 pm "The House" YT Rehearsal, TH
7:00 pm "Head Over Heels" Rehearsal, THS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

- ALL DAY JOHNNY APPLESEED COOKIE BOOTH
9:00 am (Allen County Democratic Meeting), PR
10:00 am Mission Meal Prep

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

- ALL DAY JOHNNY APPLESEED COOKIE BOOTH
9:30 am HeBrews, 300
10:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, MR
11:00 am Worship Service, SC
11:00 am KLM Outside Worship and Fellowship, OS
11:15 am Sunday School, 210
12:00 pm Hospitality Time, MH
12:30 pm Green Team Meeting, SR