

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
11:00AM — SANCTUARY
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



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 24, 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 Chorale Prelude on *Deck Thyself, My Soul with Gladness, BWV 654*

J. S. Bach

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 8, Genesis 1)

“O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens.”

We gather to praise you!

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”

“O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens.”

We gather to celebrate you!

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...

and God saw that it was good...”

We gather to celebrate God.

“O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!

Your glory is higher than the heavens.”

We gather to worship you!

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...

and God saw that it was very good...”

We gather to worship our God!

All praise, honor, majesty and power

belong to our Creating God! Amen.

†**HYMN No. 766** The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

MC KEE

†**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creative, passionate God, you delight to shape the world in beauty and harmony. You invite us to participate in the balance of creation. We grow in wisdom as our experience unfolds; we take good learning out of difficult situations yet also find our well-meant endeavors leading to unintended consequences. Too often we give in to temptation that disrupts the joyous, chaotic order of the universe. We cannot undo all our mistakes, but we can turn once more to the living presence of Jesus and find new ways to live and love each other and the earth. Do not let our hearts be fearful, but let us in silence acknowledge our sin and seek the forgiveness that restores your peace.

Time for silent prayer.

†ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even as Adam and Eve faced the consequences of their sin, our God prepared a way for them still to be connected to the earth and to the living presence of God. So it is with all of us: in Christ's life, ministry, death and resurrection. We are made able to persist, upright and strong, for our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God! 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 - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

HEARING THE WORD

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Jane McGeehan, Brooke Branyan
Ambassadors Committee

TIME WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 11:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM Gracious Spirit, Swell With Me

K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be; help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee; and, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal; and, with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior, speak. Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be; help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee; and, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear; and, with actions brotherly, speak Christ's sincerity. Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be; show thy mercy tenderly, make me more like thee; separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good, and whatever I can be give him who gave me thee.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Colossians 1:15-29

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“AI: The Room Where It Happens”

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. 767 Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

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 Beautiful Savior

F. Melius Christiansen/Cassler

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 two phrases: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;'. The second staff continues with 'praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.' The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you. Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SENDING

†HYMN No. 815 Give to the Winds Thy Fears

FESTAL SONG

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE Menuet gothique

Léon Boëllmann

CHANCEL FLOWERS

*The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Elaine Lobrey Herold
by her daughter, Jane Gastineau, and family.*

PASTORS

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Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her) (ext. 112)
Associate Pastor
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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: Dick Florea

Sound: Jeff Slater

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 17, 2023

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship 2024: You're invited to be a part of this year's Stewardship Campaign "Faces of First: Fulfilling a Future of Hope. This campaign is not just about financial contributions; it's about the heart of giving and the spirit of stewardship.

What is Stewardship? Stewardship is a commitment to managing and sharing the gifts and resources that God has entrusted to us. It's about recognizing that all we have comes from God and using those blessings to further God's work in our church and beyond.

Why Should You Participate? By participating in the Stewardship Campaign, you play a vital role in the growth and sustainability of our church. Your contributions enable us to continue our mission, serve our community, and provide a welcoming and nurturing environment for all who seek God's love and grace.

Together, as faithful stewards, we can make a lasting impact on our church and the lives it touches. Let's embrace this opportunity to give back and grow in our faith. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to First Presbyterian Church.

MISSIONS

St. Joseph's Mission: Are you in the mood to do some fall cooking? Well here's your chance! The Helping the Hungry and Homeless team will be providing dinner for the women of St. Joseph's Mission on Monday, September 25th. Sign up for meal choices will be in the small dining room on Sunday, September 17th. Cooler weather makes the shelter provided by this home even more important! We welcome and value your help.

FELLOWSHIP

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**

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!

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.

FULL CONGREGATION MISSION OPPORTUNITY
ORGANIZED BY THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

PROJECT

216

FIGHT HUNGER. GIVE HOPE.

WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 12
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
MCKAY HALL

Join us as we pack nutritional meals to be sent overseas to feed Ukrainian refugees fleeing their war-torn country. This event is fun, hands-on, and deeply meaningful.

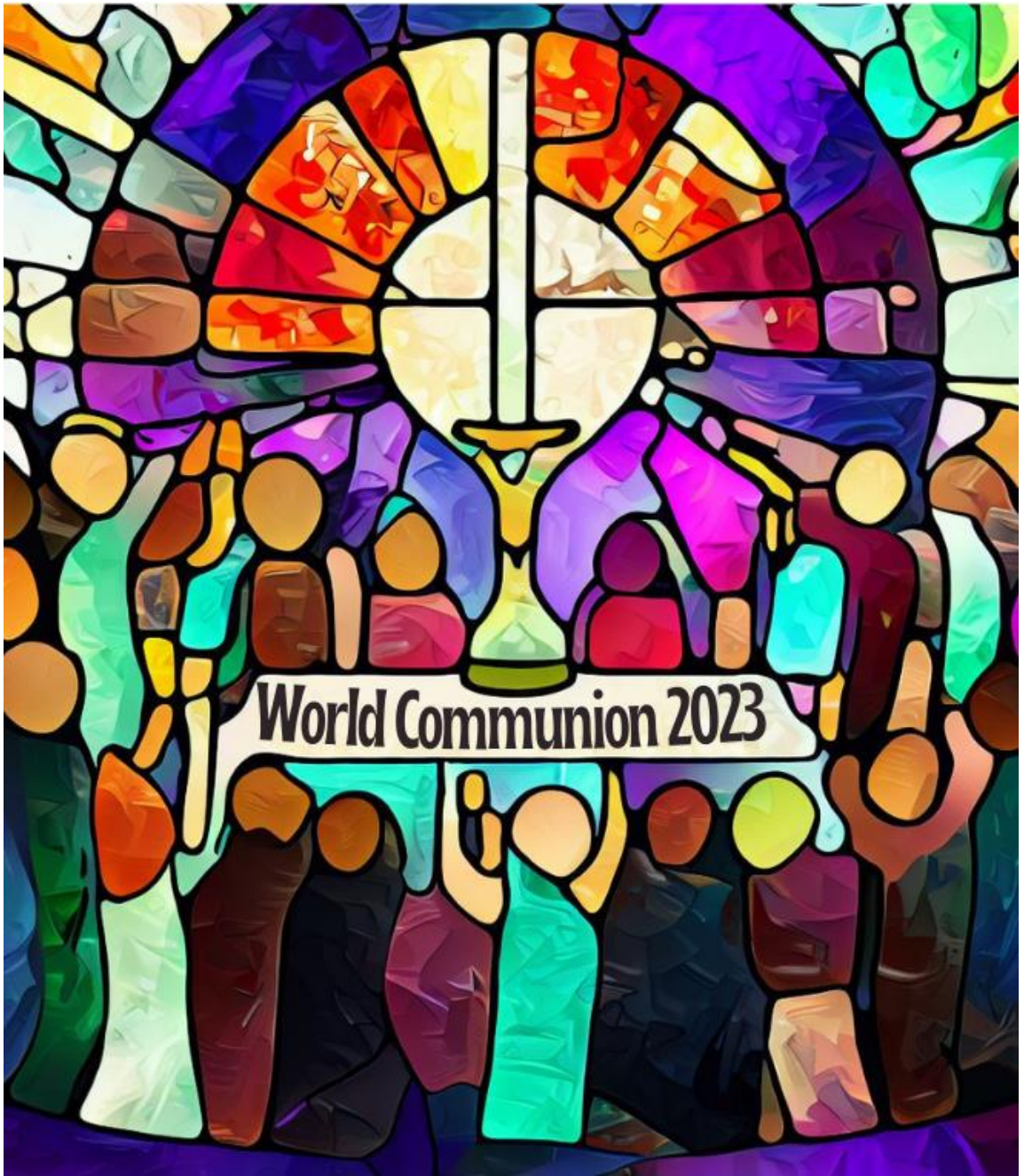
Team and individual sign-up sheets will be in the Small Dining Room next week. Please contact any Missions Committee member for more details.

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

SAVE THE DATE - OCT 28

INTERGENERATIONAL
TRUNK-OR-TREAT
FOR ALL KIDS AND KIDS-AT-HEART!





World Communion Day: Join us for a special World Communion Worship Service, on October 1, 11:00 am. We are excited to invite you to a truly meaningful and unique worship experience that you won't want to miss! On October 1 we will gather together as a global family for our World Communion Worship Service.

In this special service, we will unite with fellow Christians worldwide to celebrate the sacrament of communion. As we partake in the bread and the cup, we will remember the bond that connects us as siblings in Christ, transcending geographical boundaries.

Our worship will feature inspiring music, heartfelt prayers, and a time to gather around the communion table. We will dedicate all of our stewardship pledges, and the staff have something special planned just for you. Whether you are a long-time member, a visitor, or exploring your faith, this service is an opportunity to come together in unity and experience the rich tapestry of God's diverse family.

Please invite your friends and family to share in this beautiful celebration of faith, love, and community. Let's make this World Communion Worship Service a memorable and impactful moment in our spiritual journey.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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 17, 2023

- ALL DAY JOHNNY APPELSEED 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 & Fellowship, OS
- 11:15 am Sunday School, 210
- 12:00 pm Hospitality Time, MH
- 12:30 pm Green Team Meeting, SR

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 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, FH
- 7:00 pm (Stag ALAnon), YR
- 7:30 pm (AA Grapevine), PR

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

- 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
- 6:00 pm (SAA), 304
- 6:00 pm Session Meal, PR
- 6:30 pm Session Meeting, PR
- 7:00 pm "Head Over Heels" Rehearsal, FH
- 7:00 pm (ACOA), 300
- 7:00 pm (Narcotics Anonymous), 302
- 7:30 pm (Central AA), MH

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

- 10:00 am Table Talk
- 10:35 am (Alzheimer's Support Group), 304
- 10:35 am Day School Chapel
- 1:30 pm 3B Exercise Class
- 4:30 pm "The House" YT Rehearsal, TH
- 6:00 pm (Music Together), 208
- 7:00 pm "Head Over Heels" Rehearsal, FH
- 7:00 pm (ACOA), 300
- 7:00 pm (Narcotics Anonymous), 302
- 7:00 pm (Central AA), MH

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

- 4:30 pm "The House" YT Rehearsal, TH
- 5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal, 201
- 5:30 pm Performing Arts Committee Meeting,
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, MR
- 7:00 pm "Head Over Heels" Rehearsal, THS

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

- 9:30 am Day School Music Class, MR
- 10:00 am Men's Bible Study, ZM
- 11:30 am (Toastmasters), 304
- 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study, ZM
- 4:30 pm "The House" YT Rehearsal, TH
- 7:00 pm "Head Over Heels" Rehearsal, FH

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

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

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

- 10:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, MR
- 11:00 am Worship Service, SC
- 11:00 am KLM Worship "Full Moon Celebration", CH
- 11:15 am Sunday School, 210
- 12:00 pm "The House" YT Rehearsal, TH
- 12:15 pm Hospitality Time, MH
- 12:15 pm KLM Fellowship, MHW
- 1:00 pm KLM Steering Committee
- 1:00 pm Yakushev Rehearsal, SC
- 4:00 pm Music Series, Ilya Yakushev, Piano, SC
- 5:00 pm Music Series Reception, NX

ROOM ABBREVIATIONS

Chapel -	CH	Narthex -	NX
Fellowship Hall -	FH	Parlor -	PR
Front Office -	FO	Session Room -	SR
McKay Hall -	MH	Sanctuary -	SC
Music Room -	MR	Theater -	TH