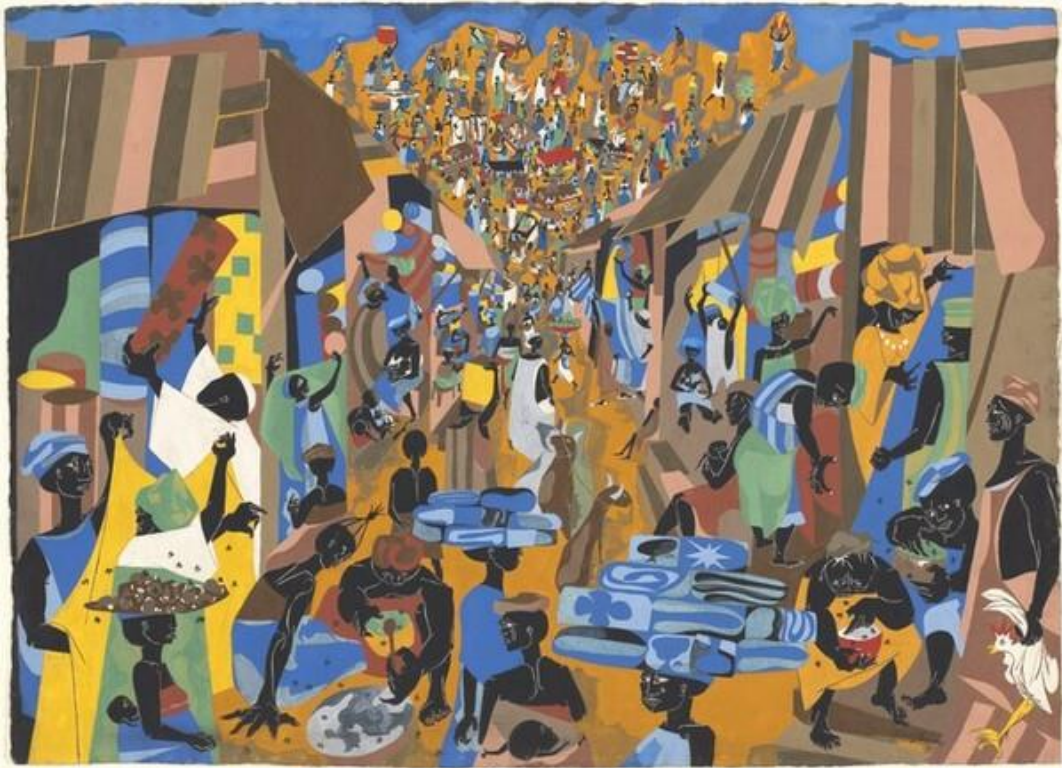


SEPTEMBER 3, 2023
11:00AM — SANCTUARY
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



"Streets to Mbari" by Jacob Lawrence, 1964



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 10, 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 Shall We Gather at the River
Deep River

Robert A. Hobby
Wilbur Held

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather hoping to see God.

Here in worship, we realize that we see God in one another.

We can see God

when we show one another honor,

when we pursue hospitality to strangers,

when we live in harmony with one another,

and when we rejoice in hope.

Let us worship the visible God amongst us.

†**HYMN No. 375** Shall We Gather at the River

HANSON PLACE

†**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

God wants us to be ourselves. But every time we hurt one another or ourselves, we get further and further away from who we are. It is in our confession, in admitting the truth of our lives, that we can be our genuine selves again. Let us join in our prayer of confession together:

†**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of love, you ask us to love one another from the center of who we are,
you tell us to bless one another, and you encourage us to do what is right.

But we have not listened to your words. Instead of loving we have practiced hatred.

Instead of doing what is right we have perfected cursing. Instead of doing good we

have sought to get even. Forgive us for giving up. Give us grace to try again, and

encouragement to make your ways, our ways. We pray, we wait, and we hope. Amen.

†ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God's love for us is genuine. When we need it the most, God's grace washes over us, seeping into the cracks of our brokenness and saturating our thirsty hearts. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **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. 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me GLORY TO GOD

1. Glo - ry to God, _____ whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, _____ whose grace has
2. World with-out end, _____ with-out end. A - men. World with-out end, _____ with-out

par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, _____ whose love has set me free. As it
end. A - men. World with-out end, _____ with-out end. A - men.

was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Jeremiah 15:15-21

ANTHEM All Our Work and All Our Being (A Hymn for Labor Day)

Morgan/Thurlow Weed

Summer Choir

All our work and all our being come from you, most gracious Lord. Every task which lies before us is Creator's will outpoured. Help us as we build your kingdom, know we labor not in vain; give us sure and deep conviction for the tasks that you ordain. Some may nurture those who hunger, tend and heal the broken heart; set our flagging spirits dancing, spark our vision through their art. Others teach and offer counsel, bear life's burdens, ease its care; strive for justice, peace, and freedom for all people everywhere. Let us labor in the knowledge that no task can be too small; that the God who stretched the heavens no less shaped the least of all. Give us strength, Lord, to accomplish what you set our hands to do, that by serving those around us, we return the gift to you.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 12:9-21

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Mr. Wendall"

Rev. Maxwell Michaels

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

†**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith)**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

†**HYMN No. 833** O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

ST. MARGARET

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

Donald Hustad

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION MUSIC Improvisation on *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

†HYMN No. 526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE Improvisation on *Come, Labor On*

CHANCEL FLOWERS

*The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Fritz Perry
by his parents and family.*

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
apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org

Rev. Maxwell Michaels (he/him) (ext. 135)
Resident Pastor
mmichaels@firstpresfortwayne.org

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, Dan Serban, Jack Patton

Communion Preparers: Kathy Adair, Anne Barnett, Diana Spindler, Anita Wolfe

Communion Servers: Kathy Adair, Judy Mettler, Carole Slater, Diana Spindler,
Steve Weissner, Marcie Weissner

Director of Music Ministries, Organist: Brent Neuenschwander

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Summer Choir

Live Stream: Dick Florea

Sound: Bill Patterson

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 Carrie Winebrenner to coordinate this momentous step in your faith journey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS SEPTEMBER 3, 2023



Welcome Day is a celebration of our congregation (formerly Rally Day) and the Fort Wayne Community as we again participate in the annual “Be a Tourist in Your Hometown.” Join us 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,” and meet local artist Hilarie Couture in the Art Gallery, where we are currently featuring her latest exhibit.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

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.

FELLOWSHIP

Touchy Topics Book Club: Join Dr. Annie Epling and Rev. Max Michaels for Touchy Topics Book Club. Childcare can be offered, notify us in advance if you need it. Dinner : 6:00-6:30; discussion: 6:30-7:30. Coming for dinner? Sign up in the office. Free-will offering received.

September 13: A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them. A New York Times bestseller, this book covers the history of the Grand Dragon of the KKK in Indiana and the woman who brought the Klan to their knees. This book can be purchased, or is available at the library. RSVP to Annie or Max; sign-up is also available in the church office.

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!

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 would like to have us order a paperback copy, please contact Marcie Weissner (marcie5073@aol.com) by September 5. The cost will be \$18.95 plus tax. (Please make checks out to Marcie Weissner for reimbursement.) If you have any questions, please contact Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733.

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 GasHouse (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 hope 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!

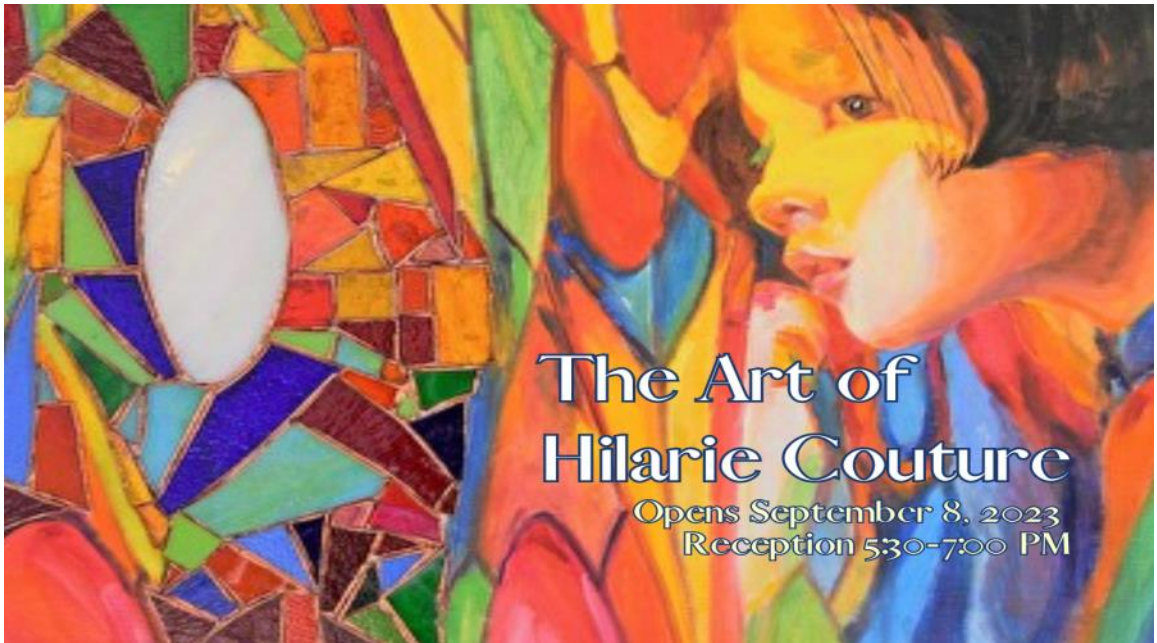
South Dinner Group: Do you hear that? It's the sound of the dinner bell! Please join the South Dinner Group for dinner at Hall's Tavern at Coventry (5747 Coventry Lane) on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 5:30pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

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.

Men's Bible Study: The Men's Bible Study will be joining in fellowship via Zoom beginning September 8th, 2023, from 10:00 a.m to 11:15 a.m. We will continue to meet each Friday to study the History of Israel. (Most meetings are online.) We are currently reading 1 and 2 Samuel along with [A History of Israel](#) written by John Bright. EVERYONE is welcome!!! If you have any questions, please contact Steve Weissner or Rev. An. See you there!

THE ARTS



Save the date: We welcome you to join us September 8, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as we embrace and appreciate the stunning work of Hilarie Couture.

Choirs Return: On September 7th, the Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir will return for normal weekly rehearsals. Anyone interested in singing or ringing is welcome to come. No experience necessary! The Handbell Choir rehearses at 5:30pm in Room 201 and the Chancel Choir meets at 7pm in the Music Room. If you would like to be a part of the musical family of First Pres, please contact Brent at bneuenschwander@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Choir Section Leader Positions: We are currently looking to fill several section leader positions in the Chancel Choir. If you know of singers who would like to do this, please have them contact Brent at bneuenschwander@firstpresfortwayne.org. Since this is not done as a volunteer, auditions do take place. Of course, anyone wanting to sing as a volunteer is welcome anytime!

MISSIONS

HHH Team (Helping the Hungry & Homeless): It's not too late to sign up for donating food to Just Neighbors homeless shelter on 3 days in early September! Wednesday, September 6th, Thursday, September 7th and Friday, September 8th. There will be someone in the small dining room on Sunday to help you.

Hunger Relief: Each month Hunger Relief asks you to contribute non-perishable food items to add to the church's purchased contribution to three local food banks. Each month your generosity makes a real difference to hundreds of people who depend on the food banks at Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, East Wayne Street Center, and United Faith Presbyterian Church. Thank you so much for your participation in this important church ministry.

This month we will be collecting food at the 11:00 service on Sunday, September 17th. Food items may also be left at the church office during the week. The following items are especially needed:

Spaghetti noodles	Canned pineapple chunks or fruit cocktail in juice
Manwich	Boxed or bagged instant mashed potatoes
Beef stew	White or brown rice—1 lb. bags
Peanut butter	Spaghetti sauce—any variety (cans only)

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 3, 2023

- 10:00 am Summer Choir Rehearsal, MR
- 11:00 am Worship Service, SC
- 11:00 am KLM Worship Service, CH
- 12:15 pm Hospitality Time, MH
- 12:15 pm KLM Fellowship, FH

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2023

CAMPUS CLOSED ALL DAY
In Observance of Labor Day

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 11:00 am Count Team, FO
- 11:00 am Staff Worship Planning, SR
- 5:30 pm Personnel Committee Meeting, SR
- 6:00 pm (SAA), 304
- 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 6, 2023

- 10:00 am Table Talk, ZM
- 10:35 am Day School Chapel, CP
- 1:30 pm 3B Walking and Exercise Class, MH
- 6:00 pm Music Together, 208
- 7:00 pm (Narcotics Anonymous), 302

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

- 9:30 am (Music Together), 208
- 3:00 pm Ambassador's Committee Meeting, SR
- 5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal, 201
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, MR

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

- 9:30 am Day School Music Class, MR
- 10:00 am Men's Bible Study, ZM
- 11:30 am (Toastmasters), 304
- 5:30 pm Gallery Reception, GL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

ALL DAY Korea Festival, OS

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"

ROOM ABBREVIATIONS

CH	Chapel	MH/E	McKay Hall East	PR	Parlor
CL	Chapel Lounge	MH/W	McKay Hall West	SB	Sanctuary Balcony
CN	Chapel Narthex	MF	McKay Foyer	SC	Sanctuary
CY	Courtyard	MH	McKay Hall	SDR	Small Dining Room
DS	Day School	MR	Music Room	SM/O	Stephen Ministry Office
FH	Fellowship Hall	NP	North Parking Lot	SR	Session Room
FO	Financial Office	NX	Narthex	TH	Theater
GL	Gallery	NR	Nursery	YL	Youth Lounge
KT	Kitchen	OS	Offsite	ZM	Zoom