

OCTOBER 29, 2023
11:00AM — SANCTUARY
REFORMATION SUNDAY



Wedding Dance, Peter Bruegel, 1566



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WEST WAYNE STREET

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

Thank you for joining us today! We hope you'll return for Sunday, November 5, 2023, for 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 Variations on *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Robert A. Hobby

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those who do not take the path that sinners tread.

Our delight is in the law of the Lord.

May we be like trees planted by streams of God's living water.

May our lives bear good fruit, loving God and loving neighbor.

†**HYMN No. 275** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

†**INVITATION TO CONFESSION** (1 John 1:8)

Let us speak the truth about ourselves to our neighbors and to God, acknowledging what we have done and what we have left undone.

†**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Eternal God, your law commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Too often we prioritize our own interests above the health and welfare of others. We betray you and our best selves by living without regard for the ways our actions harm our neighbors in need and the planet entrusted to our care. Open our hearts to love. Open our minds to honestly acknowledge our role in wrongdoing. Forgive us and return us to your way of righteousness. Amen.

†ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, the Holy One, who promises forgiveness to those who seek the good, hears your confession. As the crucified and risen child of God, your Redeemer fully knows your sorrow and your desire for reconciled relationships. You are forgiven. In that promise is the power to love your neighbors and yourselves as beloved of God who created all that exists.

†SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

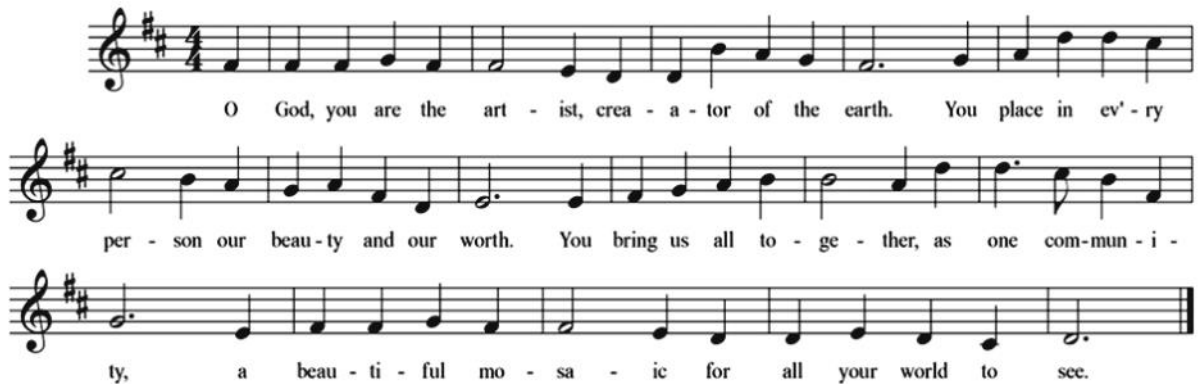
And also with you.

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

†RESPONSIVE HYMN An Artist Had a Vision

AURELIA

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



O God, you are the art - ist, crea - a - tor of the earth. You place in ev' - ry
per - son our beau - ty and our worth. You bring us all to - ge - ther, as one com - mun - i -
ty, a beau - ti - ful mo - sa - ic for all your world to see.

HEARING THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM Song of Aspiration

Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir

May the mind of Christ my Savior live in me from day to day, by his love and power controlling all I do and say. May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour, so that all may see I triumph only through his power. May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything, that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing. May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea; him exalting, self-abasing, this is victory. May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe, looking only unto Jesus as I onward go. May his beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win, and may they forget the channel, seeing only Him.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 22:34-46

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Prayer as Labor: *Carried Away*”

Rev. Maxwell Michaels

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

†**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from the Belhar Confession)

We believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind; together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; together know and bear one another’s burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and up build one another, admonishing and comforting one another; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

†**HYMN No. 824** There Is a Place of Quiet Rest

MC AFFEE

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Dick Florea, Karen Sandman

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 In Christ There Is No East or West


Ned Rorem

Chancel Choir

In Christ there is no East or West, in him no South or North; but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth. In him shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find; his service is the golden cord, close binding humankind. Join hands, then, disciples of the faith, whatever your race may be! Who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me. In Christ now meet both East and West, in him meet South and North; all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

†**DOXOLOGY HYMN** All the Music Sung and Played Here

NETTLETON



All the mus - ic sung and played here is a gift, O God, from you. For as long as we have
prayed here, we've been blessed by mus - ic, too. By your Spi - rit, each mu - si - cian finds new
depths of faith to share. Mu - sic is a gift you've giv - en and be - comes our thank - ful prayer.

†**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully entrust these gifts to your care and Christ's ministry. May these gifts reflect our love for our neighbors in need; blessing others as we have been blessed. Amen.

SENDING

†**HYMN No. 719** Come, Labor On

ORA LABORA

†**BENEDICTION**

†**POSTLUDE** Chorale Prelude on *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Wilbur Held

CHANCEL FLOWERS

*The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of William Kern
by Joan, Edward and Jennifer.*

PASTORS

Rev. Dr. Anne Bain Epling (she/her) (ext. 107)
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Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her) (ext. 112)
Associate Pastor
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Rev. Maxwell Michaels (he/him) (ext. 135)
Resident Pastor
mmichaels@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: Vernell Fettig and Terri Lindvall

Ushers: Dave Beer, Ron Gumbert, Tom Mettler, and Judy Mettler

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 OCTOBER 29, 2023

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship 2024 supports the work and mission of First Presbyterian Church, including:

- * welcome and engage the Fort Wayne community and beyond,
- * seek to glorify God through worship and all ministries
- * provide meaningful Christian faith formation, education and fellowship opportunities
- * enrich our faith through the art
- * feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and care for those in need as commanded by Jesus Christ
- * sustain the integrity of the building and grounds so that we can fulfill our mission

The Session and the Finance Committee have begun planning and budgeting for 2024. The Stewardship 2024 campaign has to date raised \$463,983.00. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please prayerfully consider making a pledge, helping to ensure that we can maintain our worship services, support our outreach programs, and provide a welcoming and nurturing environment for all. Every contribution, no matter the size, is invaluable! Stewardship 2024 informational brochures, pledge cards, and return envelopes are available in the Narthex.

Here's how to submit your pledge:

In Person: Drop off your pledge card at the church office during office hours or worship.

By Mail: Mail your completed pledge card to the church.

First Presbyterian Church exists for the purpose of transforming lives through the love of Jesus Christ. Together, we are fulfilling a future of hope for current generations and beyond. Your pledge matters!

ALL SAINTS WORSHIP SERVICE

All Saints Sunday Worship Service, November 5: We are delighted to invite you to join us for a special and sacred All Saints Sunday Worship Service as we remember and honor the lives of those who have gone before us. This day is a time of reflection, gratitude, and a celebration of the communion of saints.

During the service, we will remember and celebrate the lives of the church members who have died this past year. There will also be a time for you to light a candle in memory of your loved one.

Inspirational hymns and prayers will fill the sanctuary, and we will come together at the Lord's Table with the communion of saints. As we remember those who have passed, we celebrate the impact they had on our lives and our faith community. We encourage you to invite your family and friends as we collectively honor and celebrate the saints who have shaped our lives. We look forward to seeing you on this special day as we remember, celebrate, and give thanks.

Daylight Saving Time

Don't forget to FALL BACK on Sunday November 5, 2023!

That's right, it's Daylight Saving time again everyone.

Turn your clocks back 1 hour on Sunday!.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Rev. Alan Thames, presbyter of Whitewater Valley Presbytery, Retirement

Announcement – In a letter to the pastors and churches of the Whitewater Valley Presbytery, of which our church is a member, our Executive Presbyter, Rev. Alan Thames, announced his decision to retire at the end of 2023. In reminiscing about his nearly fifteen years as our mid-council leader, Thames shares, “The years have been full. Together as a Presbytery we began some exciting new ministries and concluded other ministries. We explored new opportunities to be Church among an increasingly diverse population. We dismissed congregations to other denominations when they sought different ways to be faithful. In short, we have observed the passing of old ways of church life and have rejoiced over the new things that God has been inviting us to become.”

“In recent months, I have heard God’s still, small voice speaking through the words of the prophet Isaiah. And this time the invitation is for me to complete my ministry as the Executive Presbyter of Whitewater Valley. I could never begin to express how richly blessed I have been during these years of service among you. The experiences of sitting with individuals and groups discerning God’s call. The opportunity to accept and meet challenges as they confronted the Presbytery, the congregations, and individual disciples of Jesus Christ. The joy of observing growth even in the midst of those challenges. The relationships built over time with people for whom I have deep respect and admiration. I am forever shaped by it all.”

Our pastors and a group of ruling elders will be traveling to Indianapolis on Wednesday, November 1st to honor and thank Alan for his work and support during his call. We all wish him well in whatever this next chapter looks like for all of us.

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.

FELLOWSHIP

Table Talk (Women's Book Study): The group meets on Wednesdays via Zoom at 10:00 am. We are reading Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation by Kristen Kobes De Mez (2021). If you have any other 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.

Touchy Topics: The Touchy Topics Book Club is continuing conversation, study, reading and learning about all those issues that we know we need to talk about, but that can be hard to discuss.

Join us in November when we read "This Is How It Always Is," a story about five year old Claude who wants to be a girl when he grows up and his family, who move across the country to keep Claude's secret until one day it explodes.

Touchy Topics meets Wednesday, November 15, 6:30-7:30. Cookies and coffee will be set out at 6:00 if you want to come early for a time of fellowship. You can find the book locally at Barnes and Noble, on Amazon, or the library. No need to RSVP.

Join Us for a Bountiful Thanksgiving Meal!

As we approach the season of gratitude and reflection, we invite you to come together in the spirit of Thanksgiving. We are delighted to extend a warm invitation to our annual KLM/English Thanksgiving Meal, which will take place on November 19, immediately following the 11:00 AM worship service in McKay Hall.

This is a special occasion for our church family to gather, share blessings, and create cherished memories. We encourage you to be part of this wonderful tradition as we express our thanks for the abundance of love, faith, and togetherness that enrich our lives.

Rainbow Connections 260, an LGBTQIA+ Social Group - Taking its cue from the song made famous by Kermit, the Ambassadors Committee outreach initiative, Rainbow Connections 260, knows that "rainbows have nothing to hide." Our group encourages and empowers community-building through social and educational events planned for adult-aged LGBTQIA+ folks.



Anyone who identifies as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community or an advocate of our siblings and is 18 or older is welcome, as long as we come with a spirit of friendship and connection, without judgement, degradation, or belittlement of others. Rainbow Connections is a safe and comfortable space for folks to authentically be themselves without fear or worry, all while fostering a partnership of trust and inclusion within the Fort Wayne community. After all, "Someday we'll find it...the Rainbow Connection..." Hopefully, that is today.

If you'd like to know more about this initiative, please reach out to Carrie Winebrenner (cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org) or any member of the Ambassadors Committee.

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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 OCTOBER 29, 2023

- 9:30 am HeBrews, 300
- 10:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, MR
- 11:00 am Worship Service, SC
- 11:00 am KLM Worship, CH
- 11:15 am Sunday School, 210
- 12:15 pm Hospitality Time, MH
- 12:15 pm KLM Fellowship, FH
- 1:00 pm Duo Rehearsal, SC
- 3:00 pm Music Series:
Clarice and Sergio Assad Duo, SC
- 4:00 pm Music Series Reception, NX

MONDAY OCTOBER 30, 2023

- 11:50 am (OA), 304
- 1:30 pm 3B Exercise Class, MH
- 3:00 pm Faith, Fibers, Fellowship, 302

TUESDAY OCTOBER 31, 2023

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting, SR
- 11:00 am Count Team, FO
- 11:00 am Staff Worship Planning, SR
- 3:00 pm Day School Trick or Treat, Office Lobby

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2023

- 10:00 am Stewardship Committee Meeting, SR
- 10:00 am Table Talk , ZM
- 10:35 am Day School Chapel, CH
- 1:30 pm 3B Exercise Class, MH
- 6:00 pm (Music Together), 208
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Support Group, SR
- 6:30 pm (Fort Wayne Weaver's Guild), 304

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2023

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

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3, 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

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2023

ALL DAY END OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

- 9:30 am HeBrews, 300
- 10:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, MR
- 11:00 am Worship Service, SC
- 11:00 am KLM Worship, CH
- 12:15 pm Hospitality Time, MH
- 12:15 pm KLM Fellowship, FH
- 5:00 pm "Almost, Maine" Auditions, TH

ROOM ABBREVIATIONS

Chapel -	CH	Parlor -	PR
Courtyard-	CY	Sanctuary -	SC
Fellowship Hall -	FH	Sanctuary Balcony -	SB
Finance Office -	FO	Session Room -	SR
McKay Hall -	MH	Theater -	TH
Music Room -	MR	Yoke Room -	YR
Narthex -	NX	Zoom -	ZM