

NOVEMBER 12, 2023
TWENTY-FOURTH 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, November 19, 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.)

-Rev. Dr. Anne Epling, Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner, and Rev. Ann Pitman

†*Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

PRELUDE Andante Religioso
Prelude in G Major, No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise and awaken, children of God!

For our light has come, and the glory of the Holy One shines out!

Lift up your eyes! Look around you!

The people gather together – the people of all nations come together to worship God.

You shall see and shine with God's light.

Let us rejoice and praise God, whose love shines forth into the world. Amen!

†**HYMN NO. 408** There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

†CALL TO CONFESSION

The presence of God shines all around us, and yet our faces are buried in our phones, and our minds are on the tasks that are left undone, oblivious to the miracle of the Holy Spirit that surrounds us. Let us together lift up our heads and open our eyes to see the work of God that abounds.

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of autumn and the coming winter, Spirit of the journey that leads us to the height of the mountain, we open our hearts to you and to one another the many ways we fall short to live into the fullness of life in you.

We create schedules that add to the burden and distract us from hearing your voice. We add to the shadows, finding the worst in the world around us, rather than living as mirrors of your hope. How quick we foster discord, unable to see your face in our neighbor, in our disagreements and transference of our own scars, disappointments, and should-haves.

Renew us by your ever flowing grace and unending love. Open our whole being to your holy imagination of who we are yet to become. Amen.

†ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

This is the good news: in Christ, God's plan for salvation was accomplished. You are forgiven, and in God's holy imagination, you are made new.

We give thanks for God's joy by sharing compassion, forgiveness, and hope with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen!

†SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

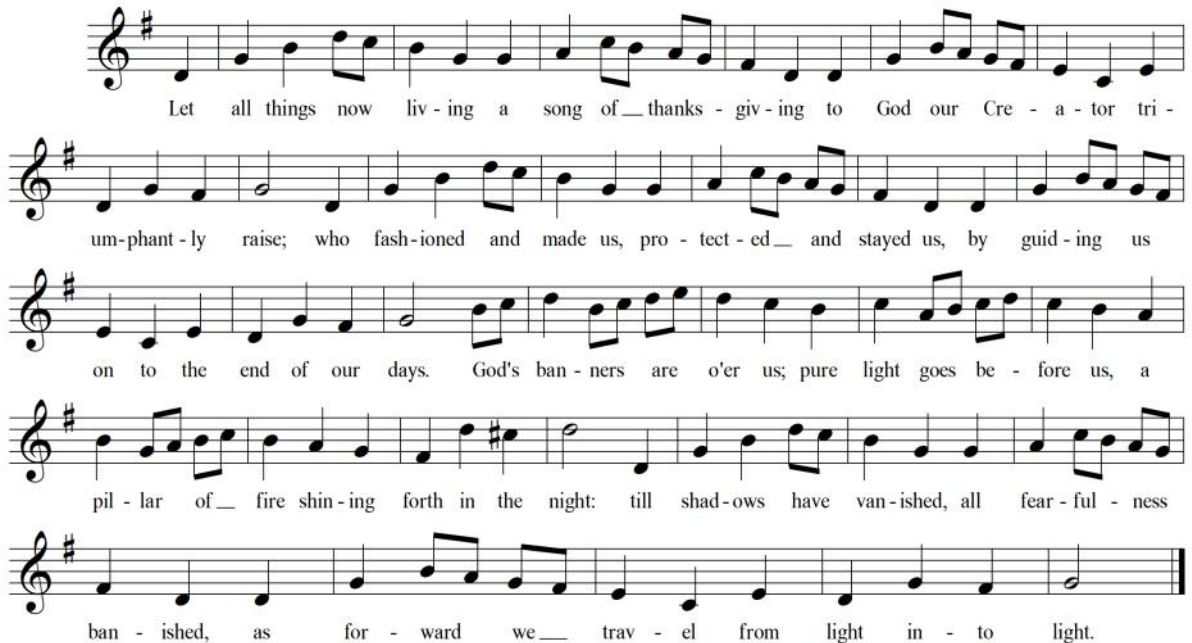
And also with you.

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

†RESPONSIVE HYMN NO. 37 Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

Children are invited to come forward during our responsive hymn.



Let all things now liv - ing a song of _ thanks - giv - ing to God our Cre - a - tor tri -
um - phant - ly raise; who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed _ and stayed us, by guid - ing us
on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us, a
pil - lar of _ fire shin - ing forth in the night: till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness
ban - ished, as for - ward we _ trav - el from light in - to light.

HEARING THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 10:23-27

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM Set Me As a Seal

René Clausen

Chancel Choir

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death. Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 7:7-13

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“This Sermon Brought To You by the Letter C” Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God who was before all things, maker of all things, source of all life. We were made in God’s image for vital work in this world – to do justice, to speak truth, to live in love. But we recognize that God’s image also blossoms in our lighter side when we are curious, playful, laughing.

God has given us the gift of humor to laugh at ourselves, to unmask the weaknesses of sin, and to turn back to the arms of love. In Christ Jesus, God came and walked among us, teaching us to embrace the weightier matters with a light touch. Though we sinned and rejected him, he still chose to die for us. The forces of evil grasped to contain him, but he arose, laughing, breaking all the bounds of sin and death. As we follow him, we laugh with him, following the true light that cannot be conquered.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who teaches us to smile, to bear with difficulty, and to endure from now until the joyful resolution of all creation. We look forward to the coming kingdom of heaven where laughter and love resound in every home and every heart. Amen.

†HYMN NO. 729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Albin C. Whitworth

†RESPONSIVE HYMN NO. 36 For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYD Y NOS



For the fruit of all cre-a - tion, thanks be to God. For the gifts to
ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God. For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while
we are sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy Spirit, breathe onto these gifts we offer. Bless and dedicate them for your work in this community of faith., and dedicate us, the givers. As we give, help us also to receive your presence through the hands, words, and actions of one another, that our neighborhood, city, and world may know that we are your people. In your name we pray, Amen!

SENDING

†HYMN NO. 542 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

GOD BE WITH YOU

†BENEDICTION

†POSTLUDE Postlude in D

Healey Willan

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of David L. Ruoff
by Judy and family.

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Ron Kohart and Steve Weissner

Ushers: Eric Evans, Dave Beer, Anita Wolfe, Linda Yount

Director of Music Ministries & Organist: Brent Neuenschwander

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Chancel Choir

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

PASTORS

Rev. Dr. Anne Bain Epling (she/her) (ext. 107)
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Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An ((he/him) ext. 105)
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Rev. Ann Pitman (she/her) (ext. 106)
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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 12, 2023

STEWARDSHIP

The 2024 Stewardship Campaign is winding down! To date, we have raised \$481,403.00 from the generous members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. We are truly blessed as a congregation for these donations. For 191 years, FPC has ministered to the greater Fort Wayne area and impacted countless lives. Will you help us continue this legacy? Every dollar pledged to the campaign will be used to support the following:

- Enhancing Worship and Ministry
- Missions
- Building Maintenance and Improvement
- Faith Formation
- Outreach to the Community

We understand that you may not have had the chance to make a financial pledge to the campaign yet. We're reaching out to kindly invite you to prayerfully consider contributing to this campaign. The Session will meet on Tuesday, November 28, to discuss the 2024 budget.

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, and we are grateful!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

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.

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!

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Music Series Concert, Today, 4:00pm: This afternoon, at 4pm, Clara Gerdes Bartz will play an organ recital as a part of the Music Series. Clara was the First Prize winner in the 2022 National Organ Playing Competition and is considered to be one of the foremost young organists of our time. She will be playing works by Bach, Dupré, Duruflé, Karg-Elert and Julius Reubke. Her compelling playing will have you spell-bound and a screen will be at the front of the church so that you can see what is happening upstairs. Come for a fabulous afternoon of music!

Ocean of Influences Gallery Exhibit Opens Friday: Join us for the opening reception of "Ocean of Influences," featuring the work of Sayaka Ganz and Gbenga Adeku at the FPC Art Gallery on Friday, November 17, from 5:30-7:00 PM.

Sayaka Ganz of Fort Wayne, IN, is a Japanese sculptor. She was born in Yokohama, Japan and grew up living in Japan, Brazil, and Hong Kong. Sayaka identifies a strong Japanese influence in her work. Using reclaimed metal and plastic objects, Sayaka's recent sculptures depict animals in motion with rich colors and energy. She describes her style as "3D impressionism", creating an illusion of form using plastic objects as brush strokes that become visible upon observation from close proximity.

Gbenga Adeku of Osun State, Nigeria, grew up an apprentice at his father's Olokun art gallery and studio, mastering traditional printmaking and painting, and eventually training in sculpture and graphic art. He is an award winning upcycle artist and is currently on apprenticeship with Sayaka Ganz in Fort Wayne.

FELLOWSHIP

Join Us for a Bountiful Thanksgiving Meal! Next Sunday, Nov. 19, after Worship: As we approach the season of gratitude and reflection, we invite you to come together in the spirit of Thanksgiving for our annual KLM/English Thanksgiving Meal, which will take place on November 19, immediately following the 11:00 AM worship service in McKay Hall. The meal will be catered, and we are encouraged to bring a dessert to share.

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.

Monthly Dinner Groups, Tomorrow, Nov. 13: Jesus forged connections every time he broke bread with his disciples, his friends, and strangers he met along the way. We invite you to find your own connections through the sharing of a meal at any of our monthly dinner groups.

While we label them by location, all groups are open to members, visitors, and friends, regardless of your side of town.

- ***North Dinner Group:*** Call me, but don't call me late for dinner! Be sure to join the North Dinner Group 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) at 5:30pm. No RSVP necessary; just come hungry. We look forward to fellowship with you!
- ***Downtown Dinner Group:*** It's that time again! Dinner Time! The Downtown Dinner Group will meet at 5:30 p.m. at Shigs N Pit (536 W. Main 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!

FAITH FORMATION

Touchy Topics Book Club, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 6:30pm: Our monthly book club continues conversation, study, reading and learning about all those issues that we know we need to talk about, but can be hard to discuss.

Join us as we discuss "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. Cookies and coffee will be set out at 6:00 if you want to come early for a time of fellowship.

Trans Day of Remembrance 2023 – Monday, Nov. 20, 6:30pm: Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. TDOR was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998.

In honor of those in our church, our community, and the world who suffer or love someone who does, a special prayer and candle-lighting service will be held on the evening of the 20th at 6:30 PM in McMillan Chapel. Prayers, scripture, and stories from and for the trans community will be shared. All are welcome. Please contact Pastor Carrie with any questions.

MISSIONS

Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner, and plans for special family festive meals are underway for many of us. The three food banks that First Presbyterian supports are prepping for the holidays as well, gathering the foods that the hundreds of people who depend on them will need for the holiday season. This month Hunger Relief asks you to contribute food items geared to holiday needs. The following items are especially needed:

Apple or cherry canned pie filling
Boxed stuffing mix
Canned sweet potatoes/yams
Canned cranberry sauce
Jiffy corn muffin mix
Gravy mix packets—turkey or chicken
Boxed scalloped potatoes

This month we will be collecting food at the 11:00 service on Sunday, November 19th. Food items may also be left at the church office during the week. Monetary contributions to “hunger relief” are also gratefully accepted. Your generosity makes a real difference to our neighbors who depend on the food banks. Thank you so much for your participation in this important church ministry.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Busy Bags and Littles’ Library: We know that worship is not always an easy time for little hands and minds to focus, so 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!



2023

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00 pm

Congregation Achduth Vesholom
5200 Old Mill Rd Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Join us to share an interfaith celebration
of Thanksgiving around this year's theme:
"Giving Thanks for One Another"

Refreshments and information tables will be available after the service.

Co-Sponsored by:

Baha'i Community of Fort Wayne	Plymouth Congregational Church
Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren	St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
Congregation Achduth Vesholom	Trinity Episcopal Church
First Presbyterian Church	Union Baptist Church
Imani Baptist Temple	Universal Education Foundation

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HERE IS WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

9:30am HeBrews, 209/212
 10:00am The Wired Word, PR
 10:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, SB
 10:30am Childcare, NR
 11:00am English Worship Service, SC
 11:00am Korean Worship Service, CH
 12:15pm Hospitality Time, MH/E
 12:15pm KLM Fellowship, FH
 12:30pm Green Team Meeting, SR
 4:00pm Music Series Concert, SC
 5:00pm Music Series Reception, NX

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023

1:30pm 3B Exercise Class, MH/W
 3:00pm Faith, Fibers & Fellowship, Rm 302
 7:30pm Faith Fellowship Committee Mtg, ZM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

10:00am Staff Meeting, SR
 11:00am Counter Team, FO
 11:05am Staff Worship Planning, SR
 5:00pm HHH Team Meeting, SDR
 5:00pm Deacons Meeting, 302
 5:30pm Missions Committee Meeting, SR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

10:00am Table Talk, ZM
 10:30am Day School Chapel Time, CH
 1:30pm 3B Exercise Class, MH/W
 6:30pm Touchy Topics Book Club, PR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal, Rm 201
 5:30pm Performing Arts Team, YL
 6:00pm Finance Committee Meeting, SR
 6:30pm Choir Social Time, PR
 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, SB

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023

10:00am Men's Bible Study, ZM
 1:00pm Women's Bible Study, ZM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023

10:00am Mission Meal Prep, KT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023

9:30am HeBrews, 209/212
 10:00am The Wired Word, PR
 10:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, SB
 10:30am Childcare, NR
 11:00am English Worship Service, SC
 11:00am Korean Worship Service, CH
 11:15am Sunday School, Rm 208
 12:15pm KLM Fellowship, FH

ROOM ABBREVIATIONS

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