

**November 19, 2023**  
**Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**11:00am — Sanctuary**

*“I come from a family where gravy is considered a beverage.”*

— Erma Bombeck

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

WEST WAYNE STREET



## Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

**Thank you for joining us today!** We're grateful for your presence and invite you to take part in our worship, mission, and programs. We hope you'll return next Sunday for a special Reign of Christ service. Livestreaming is also available to watch via the website or YouTube.

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

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

**Congregation responds in bold**

### Gathering

**Prelude** O God Beyond All Praising  
Chorale Prelude on *Now Thank We All Our God*

David Blackwell  
Sigfrid Karg-Elert

### Tolling of the Hour

#### Call to Worship

God eternal who created the heavens and the earth,  
We gather to give you thanks.

**For breath that fills us with your life,  
For love that softens our hearts,  
For beauty revealed at every turn.**

Christ redeeming and forgiving One, who is always faithful and merciful,  
We gather to give you thanks.

**For transforming our lives,  
For peace calming the chaos of our souls,  
For hope restoring our faith.**

Spirit sustaining and compassionate One,  
We give you thanks.

**For caring when our hearts are aching,  
For friends supportive in times of need,  
For generosity lavish and overflowing.**

God who created the earth and the heavens,  
We gather to give you thanks.

**We come with hearts full of gratitude,  
And we give you thanks for You.**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

O God, we know that we forget about you, we forget to love you, we forget to help our neighbors, and we forget to thank You. Forgive us.

*(a moment of silence for private confession)*

**Grant us clear minds to know you, new hearts to love you, and strong hands to serve you. Help us live this day and always so that our whole life is a thanksgiving to you. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

God did not send Christ into the world to condemn the world, but to be its Savior. We can trust God. We are a forgiven people.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\*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 stay - ed 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**

**Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 100

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem** Thanksgiving!

John Ness Beck

Chancel Choir

*For seedtime and harvest and the good will of men, we give thanks to God the Father once again; for shelter in winter, for the thaw in the spring, our praise and thanksgiving to the Lord now we bring. For those we have loved who have gone on before through that shining bright celestial door; for all who shall follow in their place, we implore thy continuing saving grace. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 25:31-46

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

“Thank you”

Rev. Dr. Anne Bain Epling

## Responding to the Word

**\*Hymn No. 367** Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

**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** God Be in My Head

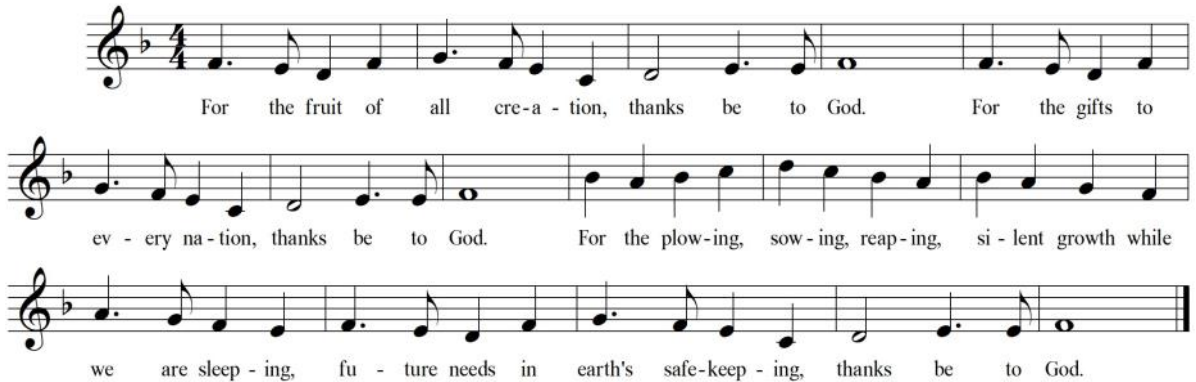
John Rutter

*Chancel Choir*

*God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in mine eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in mine heart, and in my thinking; God be at my end, and at my departing.*

**\*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**

**Sending**

**\*Hymn No. 643** Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude** St. Anthony Chorale

Joseph Haydn/Maurizio Machella

**Chancel Flowers**

The Chancel flowers are given in celebration of the wedding anniversary of Marj Sapp and Scott McMeen.

## 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  
Pastor/Head of Staff  
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**Rev. Ann Pitman** (she/her) ext. 106  
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**Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An** (he/him) ext. 105  
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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 19, 2023

### Help Others This Holiday Season


Wondering what to do with your Thanksgiving leftovers? Do you have a favorite recipe for a casserole that includes everything or nothing but turkey? How about sharing it with the women at the St. Joseph's Mission. We are providing their evening meal on Monday, November 27th. Sign up for menu items will be in the small dining room on Sunday, November 19th. As always, this mission of our church is a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude for the gifts God has bestowed on us.

**The Schools Team needs your help.** At the beginning of each semester, the Schools Team asks the administrators of the 2 schools we support, South Wayne and Washington elementary schools, what needs they have for the upcoming months. Both of the schools have asked for sweatpants (bottoms only) to have on hand when the kids have accidents and need a change of clothes. We ask your help in providing this for our schools. They need children's sweatpants sizes XS through XL. We will have a bin in the Narthex where you can place your purchases. We thank you in advance for helping us support our schools.

### MINISTRIES FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES



Join us for Sunday School with Miss Rachel and Friends! We'll all start in worship together, and then head to our SS room as a group. We hope you'll join us for a lesson, craft, and, of course...Bible Bucks! YAY! Grown-ups, please pick your children up after worship.



**NURSERY AVAILABLE** FOR CHILDREN 6MO - 5YRS  
Jesus loves the little children, and we do, too! But should you decide that today would be a good time to explore the nursery, your child is always invited to drop in. Ask an usher for assistance.



Please return after church,  
so it's there next week!

Worship isn't always easy for little hands and minds to focus, so you are invited to "check out" a fidget toy-filled Busy Bag or a book from our Littles' Library, located in the narthex!

## **Advent and Christmas at First Pres**

**Advent/Christmas Eve Service Music:** You're invited to give the gift of music this Christmas in memory or in honor of someone. The orchestra on Christmas Eve is made possible through these gifts. To donate, make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo line: Music – Christmas or online at [www.firstpresfortwayne.org](http://www.firstpresfortwayne.org). If you are giving in honor or in memory of a loved one, please be sure to include that information with the donation. Contributions received by December 10th will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**Christmas Decorations:** Christmas decorations are made possible through monetary gifts given in loving memory of family and friends. Memorialized names, with the names of the donors, will appear in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin if they are received by December 10th. To donate, make check payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo line: Chancel Guild – Christmas or online at [www.firstpresfortwayne.org](http://www.firstpresfortwayne.org).

### **“How Does A Weary World Rejoice?” Advent 2023**

Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing harsh taxes and land seizures that forced many into subsistence farming. Poverty and destitution were pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people.

As Advent comes again to a weary world, we ask, “How does a weary world rejoice?” As we move through our series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God’s closeness with great joy. And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a “thrill of hope” in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.

*Devotional Booklets related to the series are available on the table in the Narthex. Please take one! Daily prompts will also appear on the church’s Facebook page.*



## **A Special Time of Worship**

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Make Connections**

**Faith, Fibers & Fellowship — Mondays, 3:00pm:** FFF meets every Monday from 3:00pm -5:00pm, on the third floor, in Room 302. All fiber crafters are welcome to bring their own projects. There are just two "rules"... please, no ink and all beverages must have lids. If you have questions, please contact Marj Sapp (260-413-2639) or Marcie Weissner (260-312-5733)

**Wired Word — Sundays, 10:00am:** Wired Word, a discussion class based on current news articles, meets most Sundays at 10:00am in the 2nd floor parlor. Each week, a new topic is discussed through the lens of our faith. This class is easy to jump in when you can, without feeling like you've missed too much to follow along. Come join us!

## **Fine and Performing Arts**

**Ocean of Influences Gallery Exhibit Now Open:** "Ocean of Influences," featuring the work of Sayaka Ganz and Gbenga Adeku, is now on display in the Gallery.

Sayaka Ganz of Fort Wayne, IN, is a Japanese sculptor. 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.

### **Licensing**

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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.

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## Co-Sponsored by:

Baha'i Community of Fort Wayne  
Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren  
Congregation Achduth Vesholom  
First Presbyterian Church  
Imani Baptist Temple

Plymouth Congregational Church  
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Union Baptist Church  
Universal Education Foundation

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES THIS WEEK

### Sunday, November 19, 2023

- 9:30am HeBrews, YL
- 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, 208
- 12:15pm KLM Thanksgiving Luncheon, MH

### Monday, November 20, 2023

- 1:30pm 3B Exercise Class, MH
- 3:00pm Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship, 302
- 6:30pm Trans Day of Remembrance, CH

### Tuesday, November 21, 2023

- 10:00am Staff Meeting, SR
- 11:00am Counter Team, FO
- 11:05am Staff Worship Planning, SR
- 7:00pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, OS

### Wednesday, November 22, 2023

- 10:00am Table Talk, ZM
- 10:30am Day School Chapel, CH
- 1:30pm 3B Exercise Class, MH

### Thursday, November 23, 2023—Thanksgiving

*Campus Closed All Day*

### Friday, November 24, 2023

*Campus Closed All Day*

### Saturday, November 25, 2023

*Campus Closed All Day*

### Sunday, November 26, 2023

- 9:30am HeBrews, YL
- 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, 208
- 12:15pm Hospitality Time, MH
- 12:15pm KLM Fellowship, FH
- 1:30pm KLM Steering Committee, YR

### Campus Room Abbreviations

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