

September 22, 2024
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
11:00am — Sanctuary



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. Please join us after worship for coffee, cookies, and punch in our fellowship hall, called McKay Hall. Just follow the crowd, and you cannot miss it! Livestreaming is available to watch via the website or YouTube, but we know this is no substitute for the community built through in-person connections. We're glad you're here!

Rev. Dr. Anne Epling (she/her), Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An (he/him), Rev. Ann Pitman (she/her)

One License A-708176 for print, streaming and podcast. Christian Copyright Solutions PerformMusic License
Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal Online. CCLI Copyright: 2801108; Streaming: 21661340.

Please silence and put away your cellphone as you enter this worship space.

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

COMING TOGETHER

Prelude

Aria

Chorale Prelude on *Finlandia*

Jan Bender

Robert J. Powell

Tolling of the Hour

Greeting

Call to Worship

***Hymn No. 754** Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

***Confessing Our Sins Against God and One Another**

Gracious God, we come before you knowing how hard it is to say, "I'm sorry". Like those who heard John the Baptist's call to repentance, we too resist admitting our faults and seeking forgiveness. Yet we know that true repentance is vital to our faith and our relationships. Forgive us for the times we have been stubborn, choosing pride over humility. Help us to turn away from our sins and to embrace the grace you offer. Give us the courage to say we're sorry, to make amends, and to walk in the path of your love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As you are comfortable, we invite you to take a moment to share the Peace of Christ with those around you with a smile, wave, or other signs of connection.

***Responsive Hymn No. 205 Live in Charity**

UBI CARITAS (Taizé)

Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love.
U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,

Live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

PROCLAIMING REALLY GOOD NEWS

Time with Children

Children and youth in kindergarten thru 9th grade are encouraged to head to Sunday School after the Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 32:1-14

A Word of God for our times.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester

L. J. White

O holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

A Word of God for our times.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon "I'm Sorry"

Rev. Dr. Annie Bain Epling

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God, whose grace is greater than our sins and whose love calls us to repentance. Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord, we believe that God continually prepares a way for us, offering forgiveness and new life. We believe that, through Jesus Christ, we are invited to turn from our wrongdoing and receive God's boundless mercy. In the waters of baptism, we are made new, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are strengthened to live as forgiven and redeemed people. We affirm that God's grace is freely given to all, and through repentance and faith, we are drawn closer to the heart of God. Through the forgiveness offered in Christ, we are made new and empowered to live in the light of God's love. Amen.

RESPONDING WITH ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES

***Hymn No. 753** Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Announcements

Moment for Mission

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 Let All Things Now Living

Katherine K. Davis

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who guideth us on to the end of our days. His banners are over us, his light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light! His law he enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in his orbit obediently shine. The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine. We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise, till all things now living unite in thanksgiving to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

*Responsive Hymn Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



The image shows the musical notation for the hymn "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow." The second staff continues with "Praise God, all creatures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Help us to work to - geth - er well, off'". The third staff continues with "ring our kind - ness to the world. Fol - low Je - sus, praise the Spir - it, Al - le -". The fourth staff concludes with "lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures here be -
low; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Help us to work to - geth - er well, off'
ring our kind - ness to the world. Fol - low Je - sus, praise the Spir - it, Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Prayer of Dedication

God of grace and new beginnings, as we bring these gifts to you, we are reminded of John the Baptist's call to prepare the way for your coming. Just as John pointed to the hope and salvation found in Christ, may these offerings point to your love and grace in the world. Bless these gifts and use them to open hearts, transform lives, and proclaim the good news of your kingdom. Help us to live as faithful stewards of all you have given, preparing the way for others to know your mercy and peace. In Christ's name, we dedicate these offerings. Amen.

RIPPLING FORTH

*Hymn No. 383 Dream On, Dream On

DREAM ON

*Benediction

*Postlude O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Benjamin M. Culli

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Earl Johns, Evelyn Johns Andrews and David Johns by Alan Johns and Mary Barnett

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.

Large Print Hymns are available from the Ushers

Stay Up To Date with Our Weekly Newsletter!

Keep up with all our upcoming events and announcements!
Sign up for our weekly email by scanning the QR code or
emailing jconrad@firstpresfortwayne.org to subscribe.



Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Anne Epling, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Tony Borton, Vernell Fettig

Ushers: Anne Barnett, David Beer, Jack Patton, Dan Serban

Candle Lighters: Freddy Patton , Bill Shassere

Director of Music Ministries & Organist: Brent Neuenschwander

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

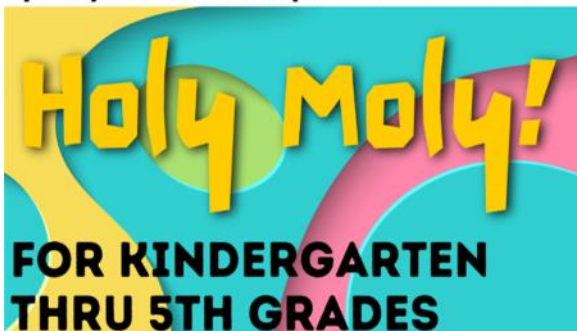
Chancel Choir

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Courtney Wallace



Sunday School for Children and Youth meets during church. We'll all start in worship together, and then head to our SS rooms as a group. Grown-ups, please pick your children up in the education wing after worship.



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES

- ◆ Sunday, September 29th at 2:00pm is the first Music Series Concert of the fall. John Tibbits and Victoria Isernia will sing a concert entitled, *Broadway, Spirituals, and More!* and will be accompanied on the piano by Raymond Chenault. Come enjoy a wide variety of music as we seek to *Enrich Our Faith Through the Arts*.
- ◆ "The Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits Of Good Citizens" book study concludes next Sunday at 10:00am in the Parlor on the 2nd floor. You're still welcome to attend this study led by Rev. Annie Epling. For more info email her at aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org or see her after church.
- ◆ Don't miss the final showing of "Beauty and the Beast" today at 2:00pm. This heartwarming story has received great reviews. Tickets available at the door.
- ◆ **It's stewardship season**, and we hope you'll make a pledge to the "Five for Our Future: Investing in Our Mission" initiative on Sunday, October 6. As the Kesters said in their remarks:
 - We know that throughout this community there are many people like us who are searching for a community that will accept, incorporate and love them.
 - We know that there are many people looking for a faith community they can trust to be truthful and sincere in teaching Christian discipleship.
 - We know that there are many people who want to serve the community and give of themselves to make our world a better place now and in the future...like First Pres is striving to do.

We can only imagine what God is calling us at First Pres to do in 2025 and beyond. And, we know that a 5% increase in giving by each of us can make a great difference right here, right now and lead us one step father into the future that God is offering us today.

We hope you will join us by making a 5% [or more!] increase in your pledge for 2025 as an investment in our future.

- ◆ **World Communion Sunday** is October 6. Like last time, we'll gather around the table for communion, food and fellowship in McKay Hall at the end of worship. You don't need to bring a thing! Your staff is taking care of it all.