

December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent
11:00am — Sanctuary



“The Annunciation” original painting by African-American artist,
Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1898



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)

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

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Paul Manz
Charles Callahan

Handbell Acclamation

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Marj Sapp and Scott McMeen

Response Hymn 127 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light. Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine — bright. O, — shine all a - round us by day and by night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

***Opening Prayer**

***Hymn No. 88** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

***Call To Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of all hope, we confess that we do not always accept your call with faith and courage. We resist what you ask of us, choosing our own plans over your purpose. Forgive us when we turn away from your will or doubt that we are worthy to serve you. Help us, like Mary, to trust in your promises and to welcome your light into our lives with open hearts. Renew our faith, that we may accept your invitation to be a part of your kingdom work in the world. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Friends, hear the good news: God’s love and mercy are from everlasting to everlasting. Even when we struggle to be grateful, God’s grace abounds. Through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our hearts are renewed, and we are set free to live in the light of God’s love. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***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. 105** People, Look East

BESANÇON

Peo-ple, look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of — the year. Make your house
fair as you are a - ble; trim the hearth and set — the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look east and sing to -
day: Love, the guest, is on — the way.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem O Dayspring

John Stainer

O Dayspring! Brightness of the everlasting light, and Sun of righteousness,

O Dayspring. Come, and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, come, and enlighten them that sit in darkness, come, come!

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46-55

Sermon “Walk in the Light: I Accept”

Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn No. 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory O Emmanuel

John Stainer

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, Hope of all nations, and their Saviour; Come and save us, O Lord our God. Come, and save us. Come, come!

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

...so that all God's people might rejoice together, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one that comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

...we await with hope the fulfillment of your vision for all creation.

Bless us, O God, and these your gifts.

**Send us your Spirit and encourage us to share your life and love,
which make us, and the gifts we share, truly holy.**

...We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness revealed:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

Sharing of the Elements

First Presbyterian Church believes the table is not ours, but God's. All who put their faith in Jesus Christ, regardless of church affiliation, are encouraged to participate in the great feast of faith.

Today, the elements will be shared in the pews. Please eat the bread as you receive it, then hold the cup until all have been served and we may drink together.

Communion Music Improvisation on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Prayer After Communion

At this table, Christ is the host, welcoming all who hunger. At our tables, may Christ be our guest this day and always, that we might welcome hope, peace, joy, and love into our lives, and become hosts to God's presence and people.

God of Love, guide us to the stables of our world, where the lonely and longing gather. Lead us to the mangers of our time, where hope and renewal are born again. Make us heralds of your love and joy. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 82** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

***Benediction**

***Postlude** O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Robert J. Powell

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of
Howard, Mary, and Johanna Schneider by Reverend Gretchen Schneider

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastor: Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

Liturgist: Betsy Perry-Patton

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Denise Davis, Steve Weissner

Communion Servers: Chip Davis, Jake Huffman, Ron Kohart, Meredith Palmison, Marj Sapp, Clara Satter, Linda Yount

Communion Preparers: Anne Barnett, Anita Wolfe

Ushers: Eric Evans, Penny Pulz, June Schwertfager, Anita Wolfe

Director of Music Ministries & Organist: Brent Neuenschwander

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Chancel Choir

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea


Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

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MINISTRIES FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES



Because Communion is so important in the life of the church, we feel it's important that we all celebrate it together. But, be not afraid! Sunday School for our Kinders thru 5th grade will be back next Sunday! Miss Rachel and friends will be excited to be back in action!



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!

This Week at First Pres!

Gingerbread House Party: Join us this Saturday, **December 7**, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (or whenever you're done) in McKay Hall for the fun of decorating a gingerbread house. This is for all ages! Houses are pre-built and all the decorations you could ask for will be available. Houses cost \$18.00 each, and reservations can be made online by scanning this QR Code or by dropping off a check in the office! Don't delay! There are a limited number of houses available, and you must register in advance to secure your gingerbread house!



Advent By Candlelight: Ladies, mark your calendars for our annual Advent by Candlelight service, Wednesday, **December 11th** at 6:30pm in the Parlor. Music & Readings in the Chapel at 7:15pm. This is an evening of fellowship, music and reflection in the midst of the season of preparation. Members are welcome to bring a dessert to share if you would like, but you do not need to! If you would like to share a treat, please sign up by contacting the church office OR Meredith Palmison at mrpalmison@gmail.com, though you do not need to sign up to attend. We welcome you to invite friends and family to join us.

Advent/Christmas Eve Service Music: The music of Christmas Eve is enhanced by members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic made possible through generous donations. We look forward to hosting an orchestra at the 5:30pm service. If you would like to give in honor or memory of a loved one, please be sure to include that information with the donation. Please have your contribution in by **December 15th** to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. To donate, make check payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo line: Music – Christmas or online at www.firstpresfortwayne.org. 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 with the Christmas Eve worship bulletin. Please have your donation to the church by **December 15th**. To donate, make check payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo line: Chancel Guild – Christmas or online at www.firstpresfortwayne.org.