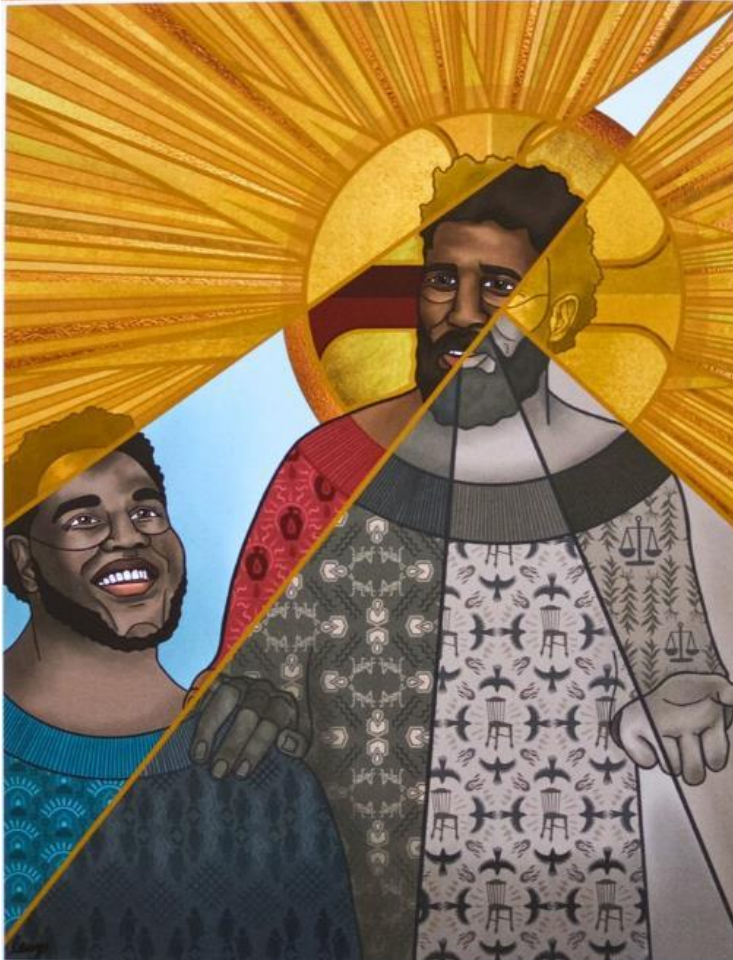


March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent
11:00am — Sanctuary



"Who Do You Say I Am" Digital painting by
Lauren Wright Pittman



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Melodia Op 50 No 11

Max Reger

Tolling of the Hour

Call to Worship

Come, all who seek to know Jesus more deeply.

We come with open hearts, longing to understand who he is.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life," "I am the light of the world," "I am the good shepherd."

Through Jesus's words, we see his love, purpose, and call on our lives.

May our hearts be nourished, our paths be illuminated, and our spirits be guided as we encounter Jesus's presence.

Let us worship the One who is our way, our truth, and our life.

***Hymn No. 396**

Brethren We Have Met to Worship

HOLY MANNA

***Call to Confession**

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life," yet we often seek satisfaction in things that do not nourish us. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world," yet we sometimes choose to walk in darkness. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd," yet we stray from his guidance. Let us come before the One who knows us fully and loves us completely, confessing our need for grace and renewal.

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy One, we confess that we often struggle to recognize who Jesus is and what he means for our lives. You call him the bread of life, yet we seek nourishment in things that do not satisfy. You call him the light of the world, yet we often choose to walk in darkness. You call him the good shepherd, yet we stray from his guidance. Forgive us for the ways we fail to trust in who Jesus is and the difference he makes in our lives. Help us to see him clearly, follow him faithfully, and reflect his love in all we do. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Hear the good news: Jesus is the resurrection and the life—bringing hope where there is despair, light where there is darkness, and grace where there is sin. In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

Thanks be to God! In Jesus, we find our way, our truth, and our life. 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. 167 Forty Days and Forty Nights AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH**



HEARING THE WORD

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

Gospel Reading

John 1:1-6

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem "Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts" Henry Purcell
*Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers;
but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy judge eternal,
suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee. Amen.*

Gospel Reading Matthew 16:13-19
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon "The Message of Jesus: Who am I?" Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.

We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end, and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.

True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ.

This is our faith. This is our hope.

***Hymn No. 213** In the Cross of Christ I Glory RATHBUN

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.

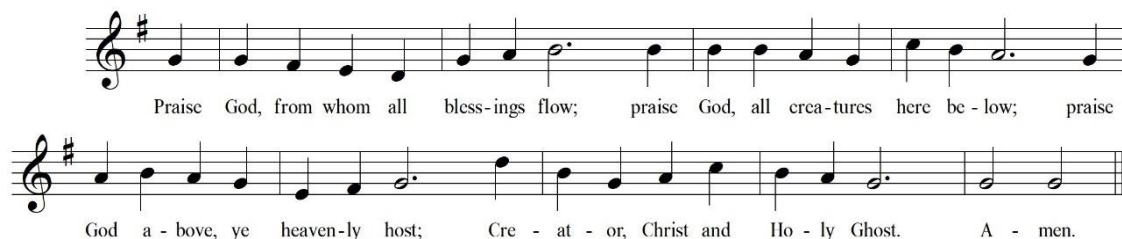
Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"For God So Loved the World"

Donald Busarow

*Responsive Hymn No. 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



*Prayer of Dedication

Holy and gracious God, all that we have comes from You, the source of life and love. As Jesus revealed himself as the bread of life, may these gifts nourish the hungry. As he is the light of the world, may these offerings shine hope in places of need. As he is the good shepherd, may these resources help guide others into Your grace. Bless these gifts and use them for the work of Your kingdom, that all may know the love of Christ. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

*Benediction

*Postlude

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

John Leavitt and Wilbur Held

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Andrew Gumbert by his parents, Diane and Ron Gumbert.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

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

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Carolyn Krebs, Steve Weissner

Ushers of the Month: David Beer, Anne Barnett, Jack Patton, Dan Serban

Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director: Irene Ator

Interim Chancel Choir Director: Jonathan Busarow

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Chancel Choir

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

Prayer List

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| • Mark Chasse | • Jane Gastineau |
| • John Ruble | • Jeff Linville |
| • Art & Lou Brickman | • Barbara McCants |
| • Bill Fish | • Jim Mergenthal |
| • Jacob Martin and Family | |

If you are in need of prayer or an encouraging word, let us know.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or you're a longtime member, we are thrilled to have you join us as we explore our shared journey with Christ. I hope you find the worship service uplifting and meaningful.

Here at First Presbyterian Church, we hold our 193-year-old history in creative tension with 21st-century challenges. We honor traditions that have shaped generations before us while exploring how Jesus's message speaks to the complexities of life today. Our members come from different backgrounds, carry unique stories, and approach faith with a variety of perspectives. Some of us may have questions, others may have doubts, and many of us are navigating challenges—yet we come together as one body to worship and grow in faith.

You're welcome to visit our website at www.firstpresfortwayne.org for more information about the church, and I invite you to talk to any of the pastors, stop by the Welcome Table in the narthex (lobby) after church, and/or join us for coffee in McKay Hall following worship. We have many programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. And, if you are looking for a church home, we hope you'll get connected at First Presbyterian. It would be an honor to be your church family.

Blessings,
Annie Epling Pastor/Head of Staff

—> Hearing Loops

To use the “Hearing Loop” during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the “T”, T-Coil or telephone position.

—> Families with Children

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, ages 6 months thru five years, is always invited. Our nursery meets in the first-floor day school wing, so please ask an usher or the front office volunteer for assistance and a key fob.

News and Events

“26 Pebbles” — Thru March 23, Theater

A tragedy shook Newtown in 2012, but its echoes tell a story of resilience and hope. *26 Pebbles*, much like *The Laramie Project*, weaves real interviews into a powerful docudrama about a community rising from heartbreak.

Experience this moving production March 15–23. Directed by John O’Connell.
Tickets: Artstix box office (260-422-4226) or <https://tickets.artstix.org/>.

MAD2 Camp Registration Now Open!

That's right! Our registration for this summer's MAD2 Camp is now open, and we are so, so excited to welcome you all back to camp! This summer, we'll be exploring the arts as we "Follow the Yellow Brick Road!" We hope you'll be joining us for First Pres MAD2 Camp, June 2-6, 2025!

Scholarships are available! Please email Pastor Carrie for details. Spaces are limited to the first 100 campers to register, so register soon by scanning the QR code!



Questions? Pastor Carrie is always eager to help! Email: cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org Office: 260-426-7421 x112.

Listening Session Opportunity — Sunday, March 23

After worship on March 23, the Drama Search Team and Music Search Team will host a deep listening session in McKay Hall. This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts on FPC’s music and theater ministries—what you’re noticing, experiencing, and envisioning for the future. The teams hope to identify the leadership skills and personal qualities that will best nurture and sustain these ministries as they begin the process of searching for our next Director of Music Ministries/Organist and Director of Performing Arts Ministry. Through guided conversations around tables, your voice will help shape the path forward. We encourage you to attend and be part of this important dialogue!

Table Talk — March 19, 2025

This Women's Book Study meets online on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. This week, we will be starting the book "The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem" (2007) by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

If you have any questions, please contact Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733.

Music Series Concert: Luke Fitzpatrick, Flautist — March 30, 2pm

Join us for the final concert of the 2024/25 FPC Music Series!

Lauded by the South Florida Classical Review for his "vivacious and buoyant" playing, flutist Luke Fitzpatrick is the principal flute of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. During the summer, Luke also plays principal flute with the Des Moines Metropolitan Opera, and played principal flute with the Sarasota opera this past winter season.

Mr. Fitzpatrick will be accompanied on piano by Dr. Jonathan Young, lecturer in music at the Purdue University Fort Wayne School of Music. The concert is free and open to the public!

BECOME A GREETER/GUIDE TO WELCOME ALL!

The Ambassadors Committee invites you to be an essential part of our team to keep First Pres a warm and welcoming place to worship. What does it involve?

- Arrive early for worship or the event
- On Sunday, welcome people in the Narthex or Theater entrance
- Sunday chat in the Narthex and McKay Hall after worship
- Direct visitors to the sanctuary or event location
- Be a warm, friendly face for regular attendees and visitors

Stop by our table in the Narthex after worship or contact Kathy Beatty at 260-442-4697 to learn more!

Make Easter Unforgettable with Music & Flowers! — Deadline April 6th

Easter is a time of joy, celebration, and renewal—and you can help make it even more special!

Easter Flowers – Deadline: Sunday, April 6th

Fill the sanctuary with the beauty of Easter flowers given in loving memory or honor of someone special. Your heartfelt tribute will be included in the Easter worship bulletin, creating a meaningful way to remember and celebrate loved ones.

Easter Music – Deadline: Sunday, April 6th

Help bring the powerful sounds of brass and percussion to our Easter worship! These glorious musical additions are only possible through generous donations. If you're giving in memory or honor of someone, be sure to share their name so it can be recognized.

To donate to music, flowers, or both, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church (memo: Music or Chancel Guild – Easter) and send them to: First Presbyterian Church, 300 West Wayne Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Or donate online at: www.firstpresfortwayne.org

Thank you for making this Easter a truly beautiful and joyful celebration!

Hands On Fort Wayne — April 27

First Pres is going out into the community together to share the good news of Christ with our hands and feet in our second annual Hands On Fort Wayne day of service. We're serving hands-on in a variety of settings with many of our community partners.

In the next couple of weeks there will be more details about work sites and sign-up sheets will be available.

We're looking forward to another successful Hands On Fort Wayne! Come and be a part of making our community a better place for everyone.



GETTING CONNECTED

MEMBERSHIP

Whether you live in the Fort Wayne area or worship with us online, we welcome you to join our family of faith. Through Coffee with the Pastors, you'll learn more about First Presbyterian Church, its history, and its current ministry in a relaxed atmosphere. Whether you're sure membership is right for you, or you're just beginning to wonder if this might be your spiritual home, we'd love to have you join us for coffee. We will be hosting Coffee with the Pastors on May 4 at 9:15am in the Session Room. All are welcome.

ADULT EDUCATION

Wired Word — Sunday Mornings, 10am

Join us each week as we delve into a topic inspired by recent news and explore how the Bible speaks to the events shaping our world today. Each Sunday brings a fresh topic, making this group perfect for those with busy schedules who may not be able to attend every week. Topics are emailed each Thursday, so please let Pastor Carrie know if you'd like to receive that email. All are welcome — come as you are and join the conversation.

Touchy Topics — Quarterly Meetings

This group reads a book (religious or not) about a touchy topic and then comes together to talk about it. Previous books include *Fever in the Heartland*, *Canary in the Coalmine*, and *This is How It Is*. Information on upcoming books can be found in the Friday e-news and News & Events section of the bulletin.

Men's Bible Study — Fridays, 10am

This group is led by Rev. Youngsoo An and meets on Zoom. For more information, email Rev. An at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Women's Bible Study — Fridays, 1pm

This group is led by Rev. Ann Pitman and meets on Zoom. For more information, email Rev. Pitman at apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org.

English and Korean Small Group Study — 3rd Sunday of the month, 9:15am

The lessons are published in both Korean and English, and the study is led by Rev. Youngsoo An and Rev. Annie Epling. Email them for more information at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org or aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Table Talk for Women — Wednesdays, 10am

This group reads a book at their own pace and is led by members of the group on Zoom. Look for more information about the group in the Friday e-news or New & Events section of the bulletin when they begin a new book.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

North and South Dinner Groups — 2nd Monday of the month, 5:30pm

A great way to get to know other First Pres members is through our local area Dinner Groups. These groups meet the 2nd Monday of every month. The South Dinner Group meets at Hall's Coventry (5745 Coventry Lane) at 5:30pm. No need to RSVP, just ask for the First Pres tables. It's a big group, so you can't miss it! The North Dinner Group meets at 5:30pm at Don Hall's Factory. Please RSVP to Sondra Mergenthal at (260) 437-9892 or by email at lisoninc@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Faith, Fiber, and Fellowship — Mondays, 3pm

This group meets weekly at 3pm on Mondays in Room 302 on the 3rd floor. Bring your latest fiber project for a time of fellowship and crafting.

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B) — Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30PM in McKay Hall

Maintaining balance is essential as we age. A decline in stability increases the risk of falls, impacting independence and quality of life. Good balance helps prevent falls, supports daily activities, and reduces the risk of serious injuries.

Join us for 3B, a lifetime fitness class designed to improve balance, flexibility, and strength using chairs and other provided equipment. These free classes are open to all adults aged 50 and older and are filled with fun, fellowship, and fitness. Our holistic approach combines proven physical therapy exercises, healthy brain activities, and opportunities for spiritual, emotional, and social growth. Classes meet twice a week in McKay Hall. We'd love to have you join us!

Growing and Gaming — Second and Fourth Mondays, 2:30PM in McKay Hall

Research shows that playing games together promotes growth in many areas — intellectual, social, relational, and emotional. Games challenge us in the moment, teach us to handle both losses and victories, and encourage us to think, act, and interact with others in new and engaging ways.

If you're retired or simply available for a bit of fun and growth, we'd love for you to join us! Enjoy games like Uno, dominoes, and a variety of card games in a relaxed and friendly setting. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 2:30PM. Come for games, stay for the friendships!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Sunday School for Children and Youth

Two Sunday School classes for children and youth are offered during the worship hour. We all begin worship in the sanctuary, then the children head to Sunday School after Time with Children. Please note: Sunday School classes will not meet on Communion Sundays so that we may all participate in that sacrament as a family.

Holy Moly — for children in Kindergarten through 4th grade

Join Mrs. Rachel and Friends for another fun semester of learning from the Holy Moly curriculum from SparkHouse. Each class includes a Bible story, video, and craft time, with an opportunity to earn Bible Bucks for fun prizes and treats.

Level Up — for youth in 5th through 9th grades

Taught by Pastor Carrie and other members of the church, we explore big questions about our church, our faith, and the world, such as science, politics, social justice, and environment.

Youth Group — 3rd Sunday of each month, 12:15-2PM, lunch provided

Building relationships while burning off some energy is important! Through service, games, food, and more, we have many events to decompress from school and extracurriculars throughout the year. All 6th-12th graders are encouraged to join this amazing group of young people!

MISSIONS

Through our Missions Ministry, many of our members and friends are engaged in volunteering and advocacy. Our programs include making and serving dinner at the Rescue Mission on the 3rd Sundays of the month, providing a meal for the residents of St. Joseph Missions monthly, packing weekend meals for Washington Elementary students on Sundays after worship in McKay Hall, and our annual Hands On Fort Wayne day of service. On the 3rd Sundays of the month, we collect food for local food banks. We also maintain mission partnerships with many local, national, and international partners. They include:

- Help Not Handcuffs
- Washington Elementary School
- South Wayne Elementary School
- South Side High School
- St. Josephs Mission
- Wellspring Interfaith Services
- East Wayne Street Food Bank
- United Faith Presbyterian Church Food Bank
- Amistad Presbyterian Church
- Matthew 25 Clinic
- Rescue Mission
- Reproductive Rights Action Committee with Plymouth UCC
- PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers in Costa Rica, Taiwan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon

Green Team

Our Green Team is active throughout the year. In the winter, you can find them distributing the “Bag of Bags,” which are reusable grocery bags. In the spring, they have a booth at Eco Fest, sponsor a recycling drive at Hands ON Fort Wayne, and host our biennial Pet Blessing with a collection of items for local animal shelters. Throughout the year, they sell Fair Trade chocolate with proceeds supporting our food bank ministry.

FWCS Clothing Bank

The Schools Team wishes to remind everyone that a designated bin is available in the Small Dining Room to deposit gently-used clothing for the Fort Wayne Community Schools Clothing Bank. Through school referrals, the Clothing Bank has provided clothing for thousands of students and families in need, sometimes enabling the attendance of students who have no appropriate clothing for

school. All types of gently-used clothing in all sizes (baby to adult) are needed, as well as shoes, coats, boots, gloves/mittens, and hats. (Socks and underwear must be new.) If you're paring down your wardrobe, please remember to bring in a bag of wearable items for the FWCS Clothing Bank bin. Thank you!

FINE ARTS MINISTRY

The **Fine Arts Ministry** consists of the Art Gallery, Music Series, and the Theater. Throughout the year, the three art forms together present exhibits, concerts and shows which seek to enhance our faith through visual art, music, and drama all while highlighting themes and challenges within our world. The mission of the Fine Arts Ministry is to *Enrich Our Faith Through the Arts*. This important ministry seeks to create artistic beauty and to help us grow in our faith with God right along with the mission of the church. A full listing of these events can be found at <https://firstpresfortwayne.org/arts/>.

The **Music Ministry** at First Pres has several ensembles open to anyone who loves to make music with others. From Labor Day through Memorial Day, the Chancel Choir meets in the Music Room on the second floor from 7-8:30pm and the Handbell Choir meets in Room 206 from 5:30-6:30pm, both on Thursday evenings. The Children's Choir rehearses for three-week periods throughout the year and sings in the 11am Worship Service at the end of those rehearsal times. Anyone is welcome to join with no experience necessary.

Our **Theater**, established in 1968, creates entertaining, educational, and inclusive theatre productions to inspire and motivate our audiences. We produce comedies, musicals, and dramas that teach us about ourselves and the world we live in. Our engaging productions have something for everyone, including pertinent messages like love, compassion, and bravery, while focusing on the human condition which can be funny and traumatizing.

CALENDAR

Today

- 10:00 am** **Wired Word.**—2nd Floor Parlor
11:00 am **Worship.**—Sanctuary & Livestream
 Korean Language Worship Service.—Chapel & Livestream
 Sunday School.—2nd floor classrooms and Youth Lounge
12:15 pm **Blessings in a Backpack.**—McKay Hall
 Youth Group.—Offsite
4:15 pm **Serving a Meal at Mission.**—Offsite

This Week

Mon Mar 17

- 1:30 pm** **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).** —McKay Hall. Lifetime fitness class for adults aged 50 and older.
3:00 pm **Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship.**—Room 302. Bring your fiber project for a time of fellowship and crafting with other women.

Wed Mar 19

- 1:30 pm** **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).** —McKay Hall. Lifetime fitness class for adults aged 50 and older.

Thu Mar 20

- 6:15 pm** **Lent Bible Study.**—Parlor.

Fri Mar 21

- 10:00 am** **Men's Bible Study.**—Zoom. Email Rev. Youngsoo An
 `ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org` for more information.
1:00 pm **Women's Bible Study.**—Zoom. Email Rev. Ann Pitman
 `apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org` for more information.

Coming up

Sun Mar 23

- 12:05pm** **Listening Session.**—This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts on FPC's music and theater ministries.

Mon Mar 24

- 2:30 pm** **Growing and Gaming.**—McKay Hall. Enjoy games like Uno, dominoes, and a variety of card games in a relaxed and friendly setting.
5:00 pm **Serving a Meal at St Joseph Shelter.**—Offsite