

April 13, 2025
Palm/Passion Sunday
11:00am — Sanctuary



Palm Sunday by John August Swanson, 1994



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Pealing of the Bells

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Open wide the gates of your hearts.

Let the Savior enter!

Shout with joy, all you people.

Let us wave the palm branches high. Jesus is coming!

He comes in humility to claim God's own.

May he claim us this day and heal our hearts!

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Hosanna to the blessed Son of God.

Proclamation of the Entrance Into Jerusalem

Luke 19:28-40

***Hymn No. 196**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*Please turn to the last page of your bulletin for the music;
on each refrain, please wave your branches.*

***Call to Confession**

To stand at the foot of the cross, to witness the suffering of an innocent man, is to be humbled in a profound way. Whether we think Jesus died for our sins, or whether we think Jesus died because of the corruption and evil of a few, the truth remains that he died, and we are changed, and we remain unchanged. For those ways in which we remain unchanged by that suffering and sacrifice, let us make our confession.

***Prayer of Confession**

Lord Jesus, we are a fickle people, quick to turn away. We are quick to flock to you when all is well, but we are prone to scatter when there is opposition or criticism. Too often we have kept silent before you, afraid to proclaim your praise. It is easy to join the crowd as you ride triumphantly into Jerusalem—

singing our joys and expectations, dancing our hopes and dreams. It is far more difficult to stand by you as the crowd cries for your crucifixion. Forgive our weakness when we turn away. Strengthen us for the journey ahead as we relive your suffering and death, that we might stay beside you to the end. Give us the courage to shout our hosannas, not only today, but each and every day. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, know that you are forgiven, and be at peace. Amen.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. 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. 197**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

ELLACOMBE

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.

Anthem

“Ride on! Ride on!”

John Prindle Scott

And the people took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet Him, and cried; Hosanna! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord! Ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die, O Savior meek, pursue Thy road with palms and scatter'd garments strowed. O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquer'd sin. Ride on in majesty! The angel armies of the sky look down with sad and wond'ring eyes to see approaching sacrifice. Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain, then take, O God, Thy power and reign.

Gospel Reading

Luke 22:39-62

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“The Message of Jesus: The Last Words”

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

from A Brief Statement of Faith PC(USA)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,

even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,

praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Amen.

***Hymn No. 198**

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

ST DROSTANE

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 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

T. Tertius Noble

Go to dark Gethsemane, Ye that feel the tempter's pow'r; Your Redeemer's conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour, Turn not from His griefs away, Learn of Jesus Christ to pray. Follow to the judgment hall; View the Lord of life arraigned; Oh the wormwood and the gall! Oh the pangs His soul sustained! Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss, Learn of Him to bear the Cross. Calvary's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet, Mark the miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete, "It is finished!" hear Him cry; Learn of Jesus Christ to die. Amen.

***Responsive Hymn No. 724**

Oh Jesus, I Have Promised

stanza 4

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee that where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be; and, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend!

*Prayer of Dedication

What can we offer that you have not already offered us? What can we do that you have not already done for us? Lord Jesus Christ, in your gifts to us, you have provided us the way to live and serve you. In both your triumph and your suffering, you deserve our praise. Through the gifts we now offer, we express our longing to serve and to follow wherever you go. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 215**

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDEROUS LOVE

*Benediction

*Postlude

The Royal Banners Forward Go

Wilbur Held

Assisting with Worship this Morning

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

Liturgists: Courtney McMeen, Arthur Satter, Bill Shassere

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Tony Borton, Chip Davis

Ushers of the Month: Esther Coplin, Eric Evans, Ashley Lassiter, and Linda Yount

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 |
| • Marcie Weissner | • Jim & Sondra Mergenthal |
| • Scott Pattison | • Dana & Les Gurney |

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

News and Events

Join Us for Holy Week

Walk with us through the sacred journey of Holy Week as we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter!

- **Maundy Thursday | Evening Service | 7pm** – A solemn reflection on Jesus' Last Supper with Communion and a light soup and salad supper in McKay Hall.
- **Good Friday Taizé | April 18 | 12 PM** – A meditative service of prayer, song, and silence at the foot of the cross.
- **Easter Egg Hunt | April 20 | 10 AM** – A joyful celebration for children, youth, and families.
- **Easter Sunday Worship | April 20 | 11 AM** – Rejoice in the resurrection with a traditional service featuring brass orchestration.

Easter Egg Hunt — April 20th

Any bunny else excited for Easter?? That's right, it's almost time for one of our favorite traditions—our Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Get ready for a day filled with joy, laughter, and plenty of colorful eggs waiting to be discovered. It's going to be EGGS-traordinary!

We'll have eons of eggs hidden in both McKay Hall and Foyer, just waiting for eager little hands to find them. Plus, keep an eye out for the golden egg—whoever finds it wins a special prize! Oh, we haven't forgotten about our older youth: we'll embark on another Easter scavenger hunt where you'll be EGG-sploring the whole church!

Here's what you need to know:

Date: April 20 **Time:** 10AM

Locations: Toddlers thru 1st Grade: McKay Hall

2nd-4th Grade: McKay Foyer

5th-12th Grade: Memorial Chapel (the Columbarium)

What to bring: A basket for collecting eggs and a smile!

April Food Bank — April 20th

Spring is Here and the best news yet; Easter is around the corner! Please bring your contributions to the church on Sunday. Food items can also be dropped off at the church office throughout the week. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Please specify your donation for "Hunger Relief." The following items are requested:

- Rice - 1-2 lb. bags or boxes
- Cereal - Corn Flakes or Toasted Oats
- Scalloped or Au Gratin Potatoes
- Canned Green Beans or Corn
- Peanut Butter
- Applesauce Cups
- Canned Chicken

Thank you for your contributions and help with this ministry. Hunger Relief is important to First Presbyterian's mission to our surrounding community. We support three community food banks: Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, United Faith Presbyterian Church, and East Wayne Street Center.

South Side High School Partnership — April 26th

FPC will host the 2025 South Side High School Arts Fest on Saturday, April 26, from 2:00-4:00 pm! South Side students will showcase their talents in 2D and 3D art, vocal and instrumental music, dance, and theater! Please come out to support these young artists and FPC's South Side initiative as we welcome students, faculty, staff and the public to this free event! Doors open at 1:30 pm, and light refreshments will be available.

Hands On Fort Wayne — April 27

We as a congregation will again go out into the community together and share the good news of Christ through our actions—serving hands-on in a variety of settings with many of our community partners. The Missions Committee has prepared several activities for this special project. Here is a list of the who, what, and where we will be serving:



Off-site:

- East Wayne Street Center – Repair/replace ceiling tiles or outdoor clean up
- St. Joseph's Women's Shelter – Indoor or Outdoor Clean Up

At First Pres:

- Help with intake of contributions to the Green Team's E-recycling bins
- Write letters with KLM to residents of a refugee orphanage in South Korea

We have service opportunities for people of all ages and abilities! Family and friends are welcome to participate with us, too! Sign-up sheets are now available for all volunteer activities! Come and be a part of making our community a better place for everyone.



Green Team e-Recycle — April 27

Have you got old electronics and small electrical items that you can't use any more? The Green Team can help you dispose of them properly during their Hands on Fort Wayne e-Recycling event on Sunday, April 27! If you can plug it into a wall socket, they'll take it—hair dryers, toasters, coffee makers, desktop computers, stereos, curling irons and even TVs will all be accepted. PLEASE NOTE that devices with rechargeable batteries, used light bulbs, or alkaline batteries will NOT be accepted- some rechargeable batteries and fluorescent bulbs may be taken to Lowes; alkaline batteries may be taken to Batteries Plus.

For this special event, it's FREE to drop items off! So come help us do our part to keep e-waste from harming the environment.

Coffee with the Pastors — May 4th

Are you new to First Presbyterian Church and wanting to know more about the church? Are you interested in becoming a member? If so, join us for our next Coffee with the Pastors on Sunday, May 4 at 9:30am in the Session Room.

Coffee with the Pastors is a casual gathering where you learn about the ministries of First Pres and discover opportunities to serve, connect and grow. We will also take a tour of the building and learn about the church's history along the way.

Following "Coffee with the Pastors" there will be an opportunity for you to become a member of First Presbyterian Church for those who want to take that next step. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to Rev. Annie Epling, Pastor, or email her at aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org

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 Friday, so please let Luci Gilpin at lucifoltz@gmail.com 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 — Will Resume After Easter

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. Starting after Easter, 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 June 8th, the Chancel Choir meets in the Music Room on the second floor from 7-8:30pm and the Handbell Choir meets in Room 201 from 5:30-6:30pm, both on Thursday evenings. 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** **English Worship.**—Sanctuary & Livestream
- Korean Language Worship Service.**—Chapel & Livestream
- 12:00 pm** **Hospitality Time.**—McKay Hall. Join us for coffee, cookies, and connections with our faith family.
- 12:15 pm** **Blessings in a Backpack.**—McKay Hall.

This Week

Mon Apr 14

- 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.
- 5:30 pm** **North Dinner Group.**—Don Hall's Factory.
- South Dinner Group.**—Hall's Coventry

Wed Apr 16

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

Thu Apr 17

- 7:00 pm** **Maundy Thursday Service.**—McKay Hall.

Fri Apr 18

- 12:00 pm** **Good Friday Taizé Service.**—Chapel.
- 7:00 pm** **Good Friday hosted by KLM.**—Chapel.

Sun Apr 20

- 10:00 am** **Easter Egg Hunt.**—McKay Hall, McKay Foyer, Memorial Chapel.
- 11:00 am** **Easter Sunday Worship Service.**—Sanctuary.

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
 4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

to Refrain