

**April 6, 2025**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**11:00am — Sanctuary**



Detail from a fresco at Igreja da Misericórdia (Church of Mercy) in Évora, Portugal

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
WEST WAYNE STREET



*\*Those who are able, please stand*

*Congregation responds in bold*

## **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

Communion

Alfred Hollins

### **Tolling of the Hour**

#### **Call to Worship**

Come and gather in the presence of Christ, who speaks words of truth and love.

**We come to listen, to reflect, and to follow in Christ's way.**

In his final days, Jesus showed us the depth of his love—pouring himself out in service, in sacrifice, and in grace.

**We come to remember his words and actions, that they may shape our hearts and lives.**

May we honor Christ with a devotion and love that knows no limits.

**Let us worship the One who gave everything for us, that we might know the fullness of God's love.**

**\*Hymn No. 223**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

#### **\*Call to Confession**

In his final days, Jesus embodied the fullness of God's love, yet we confess that we have not always followed in his way. We hold back when called to love extravagantly, to serve humbly, and to give sacrificially. So, let us come before God with honest hearts, trusting in divine mercy and grace.

#### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, in Jesus, You have shown us the way of love and self-giving, yet we confess that we struggle to follow. We hold back our devotion, offering You only what is convenient rather than all that we are. We count the cost instead of pouring ourselves out in love. We hesitate when called to serve, and we turn away from the suffering of others. Forgive us, O God. Teach us to love as Jesus loved, to give as he gave, and to live as faithful followers of his way. Amen.**

### **\*Declaration of Forgiveness**

Hear the good news: Christ's love and grace know no limits. In Jesus, we are forgiven, restored, and called again to live in love. May we receive this mercy with grateful hearts and share it freely with others.

**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. 167    Forty Days and Forty Nights    AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH**



For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;  
for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ted, and yet un - de - filed.

## **HEARING THE WORD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 43:16-21

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### **Anthem**

"I Caused Thy Grief"

Paul Manz

#### **Gospel Reading**

John 12:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **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. 189**

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

DEO GRACIAS

**Announcements**

**Moment For Mission**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Gilbert Martin

## **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**Invitation to Communion**

**Great Prayer 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.

## Words of Institution

## 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.*

## Communion Music

In the Upper Room

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Edward Broughton  
setting by Robert A. Hobby

## Prayer After Communion

### SENDING

**\*Hymn No. 209**

My Song Is Love Unknown

LOVE UNKNOWN

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

Vivace – IV Präambeln und Interludien

Hermann Schroeder

### CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Charles H. & Lillian S. Fish, Dr. Ida B. S. Scudder and Charles S. Fish by William Fish.

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## Assisting with Worship this Morning

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

**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:** Marj Sapp

**Communion Servers & Preparers:** Diane Haffner, Judy Hayhurst, Carolyn Krebs, Betsy Perry Patton, Carole Slater, Tom Swihart, Steve Weissner, Marcie Weissner

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## Prayer List

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

**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](http://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.

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## News and Events

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### 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!

- **Palm Sunday | April 13 | 11 AM** – Celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry with palms and praise. Weather permitting, we’ll begin in the Courtyard.
- **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!



## **Fish and Loaves — Thru April 13th**

The Hunger Relief Committee will again sponsor our annual FISH and LOAVES food collection during Lent. Leave your donations on the Fish and Loaves table located next to the Church office. You can leave your donations anytime the church is open. We are requesting the following items:

- Canned tuna
- Tuna cups
- Packets of salmon
- Snack crackers
- Saltine or oyster crackers
- Tuna helper

This collection is in addition to our monthly food collection. We prayerfully hope that you will support both of these efforts during this special church season.

## **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:

- Wellspring on Broadway – Outdoor Spring clean-up and landscaping
- East Wayne Street Center – Repair/replace ceiling tiles, outdoor clean up
- St. Joseph's Women's Shelter – Indoor/Outdoor Clean Up
- Fire Station #1 Downtown – Showing appreciation (dinner, etc.) for our first responders

### At First Pres:

- Preparing sack lunches for all our volunteers to take with them to off-site projects (Saturday)
- Help with South Side HS Arts Fest at FPC (Saturday)
- Help with intake of contributions to the Green Team's E-recycling bins
- Write letters of appreciation to South Side HS staff
- Write letters of appreciation to staff at Washington and South Wayne Elementary Schools
- 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.



### 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](mailto:aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org)

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## GETTING CONNECTED

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org).

### **English and Korean Small Group Study — 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org) or [aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto: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 — 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> 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 — 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**—2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Parlor  
**11:00 am**      **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 7**

- 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 Apr 9**

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

**Thu Apr 10**

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

**Fri Apr 11**

- 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 Soon*

**Sun Apr 13**

- 11:00 am**      **Beginning of Holy Week.**—with our annual Palm Sunday Worship.

**Thu Apr 17**

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

**Fri Apr 18**

- 12:00 pm**      **Good Friday Taizé Service.**—Chapel.

**Sun Apr 20**

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