

May 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter
11:00am — Sanctuary



"Just as I Have Loved You, Love One Another"

© Drawn to the Word/Paul Oman Fine Art.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET



**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Chant de Mai

Joseph Jongen

Tolling of the Hour

Call to Worship

Jesus said, “Love one another, as I have loved you.”

Not just a suggestion, but a command.

A love that walks with us, washes feet, and never gives up.

“How deep is Your love?” we ask with trembling hearts. And Jesus answers — with arms outstretched, with bread broken, with a cross lifted high.

So come—come with your questions, your doubts, your longings.

Come to be known, and to know one another.

We come to be wrapped in the love that is patient, kind, never-ending. Let us worship God, whose love is deeper than the oceans, stronger than death, and wide enough to hold us all.

***Hymn No. 372**

O for a World

AZMON

***Call to Confession**

Jesus said, “By this everyone will know you are my disciples—if you have love for one another.” But we know our love often falls short. We get tangled in ego, distracted by busyness, and too cautious with grace. So let us come honestly before the One whose love knows no limits, confessing where we’ve held back, and asking for help to love more deeply.

***Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, You call us to love one another as You have loved us—deeply, fiercely, without condition. But too often, our love is shallow, held back by fear, pride, or convenience. We confess the ways we turn away from one another, breaking down what You long to build up. Forgive us, and deepen our love, so the world might know we are Yours. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Friends, hear this good news: The love of Christ goes deeper than our failures, wider than our divisions, and stronger than anything that tries to break us down. You are forgiven. You are set free. You are called to love as you have been loved—boldly, beautifully, and without fear.

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. 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**



1. Glo - ry to God, _____ whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, _____ whose grace has
2. World with-out end, _____ with - out end. A - men. World with-out end, _____ with - out

par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, _____ whose love has set me free. As it
end. A - men. World with-out end, _____ with - out end. A - men.

was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

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

New Testament Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Acts 11:4-18

Anthem**"If Ye Love Me"****Thomas Tallis**

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may 'bide with you forever, even the spirit of truth.

Gospel Reading**John 13:31-35**

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon**"How Deep is Your Love?"****Rev. Carrie Winebrenner****RESPONDING TO THE WORD*****Affirmation of Faith**

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn No. 729*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian****I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN****Announcements**

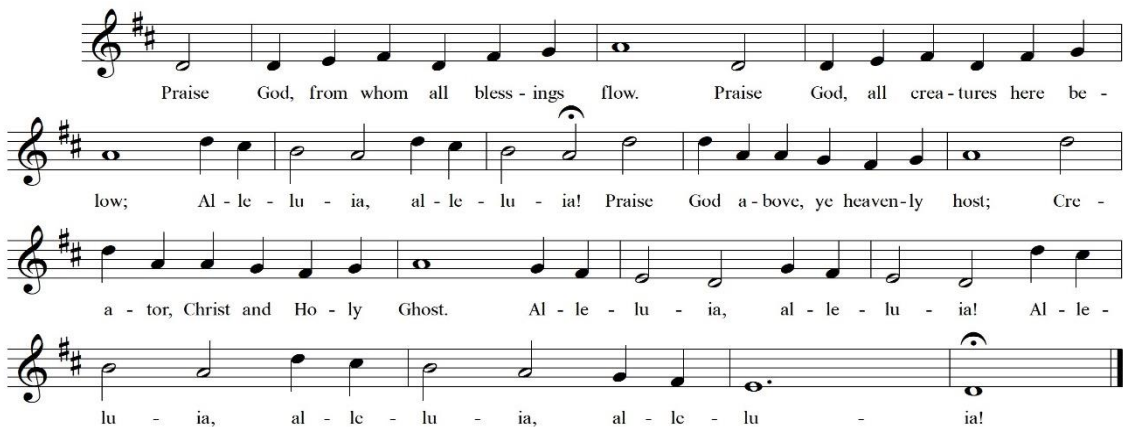
Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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 "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" Peter Scholtes / Lani Smith

***Responsive Hymn No. 609** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



*Prayer of Dedication

With joy and gratitude we come before you, Lord, bearing the gifts you have given us. Our hearts are full, our hands are lifted up, and we bring you all we have and all we are. May we be a blessing, overflowing with love into your world. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 547**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Voluntary No. 2 in G: Allegro

William Walond

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of E. Ross and Marian Adair by their family.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastor: Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Liturgist: Carole Slater

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Betsy Perry-Patton, Marj Sapp

Ushers of the Month: Eric Evans, Penny Pulz, June Schwertfager, Anita Wolfe

Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director: Irene Ator

Interim Chancel Choir Director: Jonathan Busarow

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Chancel Choir: Chris Bay, David Beer, Quinton Davis, Susan Dorion, Andrew Graham, Liz Graham, DuWayne Hintz, Joan Kern, Scott McMeen, Kathy Miller, Kip Ormerod, Mary Jane Ormerod, Ellis Pedersen, Josh Rakoczy, Carol Rhudy, Marj Sapp, Sandy Shearer, Jill Therrien, Mary Winters

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

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Prayer List

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Family of Mark Chasse | • Jane Gastineau |
| • John Ruble | • Barbara McCants |
| • Art & Lou Brickman | • Jim & Sondra Mergenthal |
| • Marcie Weissner | • 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 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

Eco Fest 2025 — Today

Join us for Eco Fest Fort Wayne at Headwaters Park today! The FPC Green Team will have a booth to share information about their work to promote sustainability and support our environment through reduce, reuse, and recycle programs. Eco Fest is a sustainability focused and family friendly event with workshops, music, food, and vendors.

Graduate Recognition Sunday — May 25

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, May 25, we'll celebrate our graduates during worship and during our hospitality time afterwards. This year, we're recognizing three high school seniors and one college graduate. We've watched them grow, and now it's our turn to cheer them on as they step into what's next. Join us for this meaningful moment in the life of our church family!

Touchy Topics Book Club — May 28

The next Touchy Topics Book Club is Wednesday, May 28 at 6:30pm in the Parlor. Join us for a discussion of Matthew Desmond's Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. We know it's a dense and emotionally challenging read, so if the full book feels like too much, consider listening to the audiobook—or even reading a summary or review online to get the key themes. However much you're able to engage, we hope you'll come. The conversation is what matters most.

Table Talk Summer Hiatus — May 28-Sep 3

The Table Talk women's book study will have their last meeting before taking a summer break on Wednesday, May 28 at 10:00 am on Zoom. The group will resume on September 3.

Wired Word — Sundays at 10am

Wired Word will continue throughout the summer, excepting May 25 and July 6. Please join us in the parlor at 10:00 AM for coffee and discussion!

Follow the Yellow Brick Road... to MAD2 Camp! — June 2–6

Lions and tigers and *volunteers*, oh my! MAD2 Camp—our week of Music, Art, Drama, and Dance for K–5th graders—is back, and we’re off to see the Wizard! To make the magic happen, we're looking for adult volunteers to chaperone groups from class to class during the week. If you are available all week or just two or three days, we'd love to count on you! Also, we're still in need of folks to help greet and usher during the Friday evening performance.

Please scan the QR code to sign up, or email Carrie at cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org.



Realm Assistance Available — June 10 & 17

Cheri Umphrey will provide personal in-house assistance to those members who need help with creating an online Realm account. Creating an online Realm account will enable you to change your contact information and give you access to the church member directory. Please bring whatever device you use to access your personal emails.

Cheri will be available to help on the following dates and times.

Tuesday, June 10:

- 10:00am
- 11:00am
- 12:00pm
- 1:00pm

Tuesday, June 17:

- 10:00am
- 11:00am
- 12:00pm
- 1:00pm

Please use the QR code to sign-up online for the date and time you wish to stop by the First Presbyterian office.

You may call the office to sign up for a time at 260-426-7421.



Resource Library

The Stephen Ministry maintains a resource library of books dealing with a range of issues, among them, dementia, grief, end of life planning, aging, mental health issues, and gender issues. The books are available to be checked out to members of the congregation. Please contact Rev Ann Pitman, Marcie Weissner, or Carolyn Krebs to arrange a time to look through the titles available.

Security Alarm Alert: Help Us Avoid False Alarms!

Friends, we need your help. Recently, our building security alarm has been triggered more often than the church bell on Sunday morning — and not in a good way. When someone enters the building without staff present, it sets off the alarm, which triggers a call to the alarm company, then to staff, and sometimes even to the police. It's disruptive, stressful, and entirely preventable.

Here's how you can help:

If you need to enter the church outside of office hours, or when staff won't be present, please make arrangements with the church office ahead of time. Also, if you've scheduled an early arrival, please don't arrive earlier than planned — even a few minutes early can trigger the alarm if staff haven't had a chance to disarm the system yet. We're happy to help coordinate your visit so everything goes smoothly (and quietly). Thanks for understanding and helping us keep things safe, secure, and siren-free!

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 — Summer Hiatus

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 — Summer Hiatus

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 — Summer Hiatus

The Table Talk women's book study will have their last meeting before taking a summer break on Wednesday, May 28 at 10:00 am on Zoom. The group will resume on September 3.

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!

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

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.

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

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 includes the Chancel Choir which meets in the Music Room on the second floor. Rehearsals are from 7-8:30 pm on Thursday evenings, and 10-10:40 am on Sundays, from Labor Day until June 8th. The Handbell Choir also meets on Thursdays from 5:30 - 6:30 in Room 201. They will not be practicing during the summer months but will resume in the fall.

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
Choir Warmup.—Music Room.
- 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.
Youth Group.—Playground.
- 4:00 pm** **Serving Meal at Mission.**—Offsite.

This Week

Mon May 19

- 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.

Tues May 20

- 6:30 pm** **Session Meeting.**—Session Room.

Wed May 21

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

Fri May 23

- 1:00 pm** **Women's Bible Study.**—Zoom. Email Rev. Ann Pitman
apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org for more information.

Coming Soon

Sun May 25

- 11:00 am** **Graduate Recognition.**—Sanctuary during worship.

Mon Jun 2

- 8:00 am** **MAD2 Camp Starts!**—Entire Campus.

Sun Jun 8

- 11:00 am** **Joint Worship with FW Churches.**—Sanctuary.

Sun Jun 22

- 12:00 pm** **Kathy Miller's Retirement Party.**—McKay Hall after worship.