

June 29, 2025
Third Sunday After Pentecost
11:00am — Sanctuary



"Wheel Chaired Praising" Hyatt Moore, 2025
oil painting on canvas



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude Two Settings of Bunesan Charles Callahan and Eugene Butler

Pealing of the Bells

Call to Worship

Come, beloved community—diverse, dynamic, whole.

We are many parts, but one body in Christ.

Some of us walk, some of us roll, some of us rest.

Each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made.

God has arranged us together in grace and purpose.

Let us worship the One who makes every body belong.

***Hymn No. 37**

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

***Call to Confession**

The world tells us to idolize strength and independence. But we were made in the image of God in many different and beautiful ways. Let us confess where we have ignored, diminished, or misunderstood the gifts of others. Let us come before God and each other with truth and trust.

***Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, You created us to be one body,
but we confess that we have made comparisons and drawn lines.
We have labeled some bodies as “whole” and others as “broken.”
We have mistaken pity for compassion and access for inclusion.
Forgive us, O God.**

**When we overlook voices on the margins, when we assume what others need,
when we treat difference as deficit—restore us to right relationship.**

**Make us eager to honor each other,
and to build a body where every member is valued,
every story is heard, and every gift is received with joy.
In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Beloved in Christ, hear the Good News: The God who formed our bodies, who called each part good, has never stopped mending what the world breaks. In Jesus Christ, we are not just forgiven: we are welcomed, made whole, and woven back into the Body of Christ. Friends, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ, 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. 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

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 139:1-16

New Testament Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

RESPONDING TO THE WORD***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God, who knit each of us together in love, who delights in every body—disabled and non-disabled, visible and unseen, celebrated and overlooked.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God made flesh, who walked among us with scars, who touched the untouchable, welcomed the outsider, and turned the tables of exclusion into open feasts of grace.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathing through wheelchairs and walkers, hearing aids and quiet voices, gathering us into one Body with many members, none more important, none more worthy: each one indispensable.

We believe that the Church is called to honor all gifts, make room for all needs, and dismantle every barrier – physical or spiritual – that keeps any child of God from full belonging.

We believe that God's kingdom is a place where every story matters, every scar is holy, and every body is a blessing. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Hymn No. 27**

Sacred the Body

TENDERNESS

*Soloist sings Stanza 1, All sing Stanzas 2-4***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

Christ Be Beside Me

Gaelic Melody

Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart.

Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife.

Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me; Christ be on all tongues telling of me.

Christ be the vision in eyes that see me; in ears that hear me Christ ever be.

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be - low; praise
God a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; Cre - at - or, Christ and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, you have given each of us gifts, not to compare or compete, but to build up the Body of Christ in love. We dedicate these offerings, and our very lives, to your vision of wholeness and welcome. Bless every dollar, every deed, and every dream, that your Spirit might weave us together in justice, mercy, and grace. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 754

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

*Benediction

*Postlude

Toccata on Ash Grove

David Cherwien

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in celebration of the 40th wedding anniversary of Philip and Victoria Davis.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Denise Davis, Carolyn Krebs

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

Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director: Irene Ator

Soloist: Ellis Pedersen

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

Prayer List

- Art Brickman & Family
- Annie Epling & Family
- Virginia Coats
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- Dana & Les Gurney
- Bill Fish

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

Meal Train for the Epling Family

For those wanting to do something kind for Rev. Annie Epling through her healing process, the family appreciates meal assistance during this time. To help, scan the QR code or call the church office at 260-426-7421 to sign up for a slot on the Meal Train. Your continued prayers and support are deeply appreciated.



Note to In-Person Worship Attendees

Please note that the back pews of the sanctuary have been roped off and are currently closed. We kindly ask that you move forward and sit closer to the front. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we create a more welcoming and connected worship experience.

FAME Festival Art Show — Sunday, July 6

FAME, or the Foundation for Art and Music in Education, has highlighted musical and artistic work by local students for over three decades. In the words of the Foundation, “We believe in the value and power of the arts to kindle the imagination, encourage creative thinking and enhance human development.” Work from the 2025 FAME Festival will be displayed in the FPC Art Gallery from Tuesday, July 1 through Saturday, August 2. Please join us for congregational reception immediately after worship on Sunday, July 6!



About Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. FPC is a Stephen Ministries congregation and has a dedicated group of Stephen Ministers.

The Stephen Ministry is completely confidential, and open to all FPC members. Please email Rev. Ann Pitman, or call her at 260-426-7421, extension 150, for more information.

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.

Volunteer at Pride Fest 2025 — Saturday, July 26 at 12pm

Come be a part of God's vibrant mosaic!

What: Fort Wayne Pride Festival 2025

When: Saturday, July 26, 12:00 noon – 7:00 p.m.

FORT WAYNE
QUEER
ART CLUB

Show your love and represent First Presbyterian at the Fort Wayne Pride Festival this year by volunteering for a 1.5 hour shift at our booth. Volunteers will help visitors to create small pieces of art that will become a big mosaic over the course of the day. The mosaic will join an exhibition of art created by the Queer Art Club of Fort Wayne, showcased at the booth next to the First Pres.

Three to four volunteers will cover each shift so there will be plenty of time to talk, laugh, hug, and make art together.

Scan the QR code to sign-up for a slot! Contact Carrie Winebrenner with any questions.



FPC Foundation Centennial Fund:

The Foundation was established on May 10, 1925, and this year marks its 100th anniversary! Its mission is to support religious, educational, and charitable efforts that benefit both current and future members of this Church, their families, and their communities. In pursuit of these goals, the Foundation is dedicated to advancing the cause of Christianity in Fort Wayne and the surrounding area.



Every member of First Presbyterian Church is also a member of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation. So, if First Presbyterian is your church, you can truly consider this Foundation your own.

The Foundation Board is excited to launch a new Centennial Fund as we look ahead to the next 100 years. Established in honor of the First Presbyterian Foundation, Inc.'s 100th birthday, this special fund invites individuals to commemorate the milestone with a gift of \$100. You may give online by scanning the QR code, or by cash/check at the church office.



Join us in celebrating our past and investing in our future!

Table Talk Fall Study

This Women's Book Study meets online on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. We take turns "reading around the table", so no homework is assigned. Participants obtain their own copies of the book. The group will resume on Sept. 3.

We will be reading *The Red Tent* (1997) by Anita Diamont. This historical fiction novel is based on the biblical story of Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and Leah. The book explores the traditions and challenges of ancient womanhood through the voice of Dinah and her mothers.

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

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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

It is a lay ministry with Stephen Ministers who are trained to listen and talk about a myriad of things that members may be facing in their lives. While pastors are always on the front lines, sometimes there is a need for ongoing, one on one care, for example, loss of a loved one, serious illness, divorce, job loss, addiction, or even loneliness. It is private and confidential. Call the Stephen Ministry office (260-427-7421 x106) for more information.

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 — Summer Hiatus

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, June 11 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 — Summer Hiatus

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 — Summer Hiatus

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.

11:00 am

Worship.—Sanctuary & Livestream.

Korean Language Worship Service.—Chapel & Livestream.

12:00 pm

Fellowship Time.—McKay Hall.

This Week

Mon Jun 30

1:30 pm

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).—McKay Hall. Lifetime fitness class for adults aged 50 and older.

Wed July 2

1:30 pm

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).—McKay Hall. Lifetime fitness class for adults aged 50 and older.

6:30 pm

Drama Search Team Meeting.—Zoom.

Friday July 4

Campus Closed for Holiday

Coming Soon

Sun July 6

12:00 pm

FAME Congregational Reception.—Gallery after worship.

Sat July 26

11:00 am

FPC Booth at Pride.—Offsite.