

August 3, 2025
11:00am — Sanctuary



"Dancing Wheat Under Sky" original acrylic painting
by Tatiana Malinovskaia, Moldova



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Andante with Variations

F. Mendelssohn

Pealing of the Bells

Call to Worship

From east and west, north and south, we gather in God's name,

to pray, to worship, to sing, to celebrate the Lord's Supper.

We give thanks that we are part of a large, diverse faith family.

We are old. We are young. We come from tribes of all kinds.

We give thanks that God's family is one of many colors.

From black to white to every shade in between, we are children of God.

We give thanks that the narrative we proclaim belongs to everyone.

**We stand with our friends and family around the world,
reclaiming the name of Jesus.**

So, come, let us worship God and gather at God's wide and wonderful table!

***Hymn No. 612**

We Praise You, O God

KREMSER

***Call to Confession**

When we could be revived by God's grace, we find ourselves fearing God's judgment, doubting God's joy in us, worrying that God has turned away from us. Let us come to the One who heals us and calls each of us by name. Let us pray together.

***Prayer of Confession**

Amazing and awesome God, you hold nothing back from us, yet we are determined to cling to what we have accumulated. We spend so much time eating out, we cannot feel the deep ache our hunger for you causes. You invite us to set aside our old ways, and walk with you, but unknown paths fill us with fear.

Have mercy on us, Bread of Heaven. We come to the Table of grace and hope, not for our personal satisfaction, but for the joy of recognizing the One who calls us to new life, and for the grace to share this joy with everyone we meet. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Friends, do not be afraid. More than anything else, God would rather turn fetid swamps into pools of crystal clear water; bonds of sin into cords of compassion; sinners into servants.

God loves us. God forgives us. God lifts us to new life. Thanks be to God!

***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 107:1-9, 43

Solo

Come Sunday

Duke Ellington

*Come Sunday, Oh come Sunday, that's the day.
Lord, dear Lord above, God almighty,
God of love, please look down and see my people through.
I believe that God put sun and moon up in the sky.
I don't mind the gray skies 'cause they're just clouds passing by.
Heaven is a goodness time. A brighter light on high.
Do unto others as you would have them do to you.
And have a brighter by and by.
I believe God is now, was then and always will be.
With God's blessing we can make it through eternity.*

New Testament Reading

Luke 12:13-21

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Ponderings on the Passage

with Randy Bolinger, Savannah Mooney, and Joan Pattison

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in truth as a living reality,
not captured in theory or a creed,
but revealed to those who love;
the truth of Jesus, the Spirit of truth, the truth of God.
Because we believe, we trust,
not blindly but open eyed and bold
as a child climbing into a mother's lap;
the truth of Jesus, the Spirit of truth, the truth of God.
Because we believe, we serve,
not as a slave that serves a tyrant
but like farmers reaping a harvest;
the truth of Jesus, the Spirit of truth, the truth of God. Amen.**

***Hymn No. 716**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Taste and See
See Hymn 520 for Text.

James E. Moore Jr.

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

Communion

Theodore Dubois

Prayer After Communion

SENDING

***Hymn No. 761**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Trumpet Voluntary

John Stanley

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in gratitude for the people of First Presbyterian Church
by Jane Gastineau.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Worship Leaders: Randy Bolinger, Savannah Mooney, Joan Pattison

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Bill Shassere, Sandy Shearer

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

Communion Servers and Preparers: Anne Barnett, Ina Carlson, Beth Hague, Judy Hayhurst, Bill Shassere, Jeff Slater

Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director: Irene Ator

Soloist: Quinton Davis

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

Prayer List

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Annie Epling & Family | • Jim & Sondra Mergenthal |
| • Virginia Coats | • Dana & Les Gurney |
| • Bill Fish | • Bob and Kathy Beatty |

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

News and Events

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!

Spend Time with your First Pres Family

North Dinner Group: Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 5:30 pm, location is 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!

South Dinner Group: Please join the South Dinner Group for dinner at Hall's Tavern at Coventry (5747 Coventry Lane) on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

Save the Date!

Join us as we kick off our program year on August 17, with Church in the Park! Worship will once again be at Conklin Pavilion at Shoaff Park. The pavilion is covered and completely accessible with parking and sidewalks leading to the pavilion. We'll enjoy lunch after church, and then there's plenty to do at Shoaff Park, including Frisbee golf, a splash pad, and golfing! You won't want to miss this fun day!



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. Keep an eye out for our next date of Coffee with the Pastors.

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, confidential one on one care. Call 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.

On Summer Hiatus

Men's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study

English and Korean Small Group Study

Table Talk for Women

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

On Summer Hiatus

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.

Youth Group - 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 collecting, making, and serving meals for shelters, schools, food banks, and more. We also maintain mission partnerships with many local, national, and international partners.

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. All types of gently-used clothing in all sizes are needed. (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!

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.

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/>.

On Summer Hiatus

Music Ministry - Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir

Theater - We produce comedies, musicals, and dramas that teach us about ourselves and the world we live in.

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 Aug 4

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 latest fiber project for a time of fellowship and crafting.

Wed Aug 6

1:30 pm

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

Coming Soon

Mon Aug 11

5:30 pm

North and South Dinner Groups.—Offsite. Join members of your First Pres family at either Don Hall's Factory or Hall's Tavern at Coventry.

Sun Aug 17

11:00 am

Worship in the Park.—Offsite.

Blessing of the Backpacks.—Offsite.