

July 13, 2025
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
11:00am — Sanctuary



“Modern Day Good Samaritan” Acrylic and Oil Pastel on Canvas,
by Susan E. Brooks, Louisville, Ky.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Elevation

Andante con Moto

Alexandre Guilmant

Pealing of the Bells

Call to Worship

We are called to love the Lord our God.

We are called to love with all our heart and soul.

We are called to love the Lord our God.

We are called to love with all our mind and strength.

We are called to love the Lord our God.

And we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Come, let us love our God,

and share God's love in this time of worship!

***Hymn No. 4**

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

***Call to Confession**

The world teaches us many ways to love, but all are based on selfish desires and needs. God teaches us how to love: completely, uniquely, unconditionally. Let us confess our difficulty in loving as God teaches us, as we pray together.

***Prayer of Confession**

We are hesitant to confess, Holy God, how hard it is to love as you wish. It is easy to love you with all that we are, except when you ask us to love our neighbor with all that we have. We find it hard to love our neighbor when it is linked to the way we love ourselves. And it is difficult to love anyone—even You—more than we love ourselves.

Forgive us, Love Eternal. As you took a risk in creating us, help us to take risks to love others compassionately, to love ourselves genuinely, and to love you as completely as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

In God's Kingdom, all are loved for who they are, not what they do;
In God's Kingdom, all are forgiven for what they do, and don't;
In God's Kingdom, all are welcomed and fed by God's grace and hope.
Forgiven, loved, sent forth.

We are not far from God's Kingdom! 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

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Amos 7:7-17

Solo

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee
See Hymn 629 for Text

Eric Thiman

New Testament Reading

Luke 10:25-37

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Susan Keirn-Kester

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

We are a cloth of diverse colors made from many gifts and graces.
We are the people flowing forth from Creator God,
surprising ourselves with the things which can be done.
We are raw material for rewarding relationships as our lives interweave,
contributing one to the other,
holding each other firm when one is weak or breaking.
We are each worthy of being respected and cared for,
essential to the pattern, skilled in our appointed tasks,
sources of laughter and sharers of tears.
We commit ourselves to work together,
that one day, this world may be a place
where all people live in justice, freedom and peace. Amen.

***Hymn No. 761**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

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.

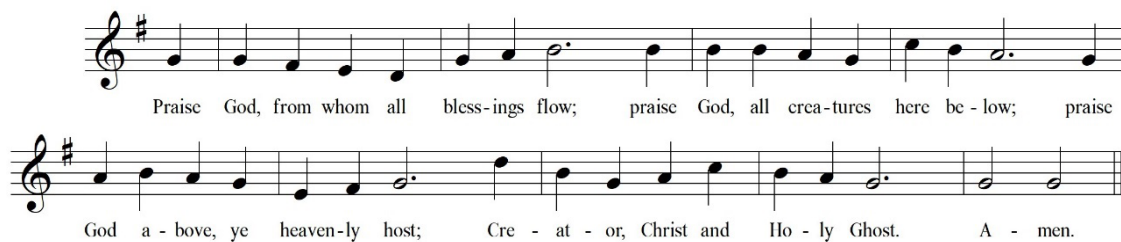
Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Hymn Prelude on Grosser Gott

Wilbur Held

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



Prayer of Dedication

Merciful God, you call us to love our neighbors with compassion and generosity. We present these offerings as a sign of our choice to follow your call. Use them for the benefit of those in need and for the work of your kingdom, so that everyone may hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 450**

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Postlude in G Major

G. F. Handel

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Mary Stewart Ator
by Carole and Jeff Slater and family.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Susan Keirn-Kester

Liturgist: Marj Sapp

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Chip Davis, Jeff Slater

Ushers of the Month: Esther Copland, Edith Copland, Eric Evans, Scott McMeen

Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director: Irene Ator

Soloist: Liz Graham

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 Event

Ushers

We're looking for friendly faces to serve as ushers during worship services! Ushers help welcome guests, distribute bulletins, and assist with seating and are a vital part of creating a warm and inviting experience for all. If you're available and willing to help, please contact Scott McMeen at 260-417-4715 or srmcmeen@gmail.com. Thank you for serving!

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.

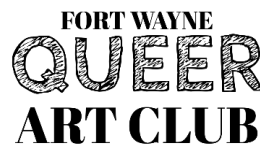
The Foundation Board is excited to launch a new Centennial Fund as we look ahead to the next 100 years. Established in honor of the First Presbyterian Foundation, Inc.'s 100th birthday, this special fund invites individuals to commemorate the milestone with a gift of \$100. You may give online by scanning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



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

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

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.



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.) 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.

The date for the **July Food Bank Collection** will be July 20th. Please bring your contribution to the church on Sunday. Food items can be dropped off at the church office throughout the week. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated too. Please specify your donation for "Hunger Relief."

The following items are requested:

Rice- white or brown (1-2 lbs. bags preferred)

Canned Soup

Applesauce Cups

Cereal - Toasted Oats or Corn Flakes

Peanut Butter

Canned Vegetable - Green Beans or Corn

Canned Tuna

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

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 July 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 latest fiber project for a time of fellowship and crafting.

5:30 pm

North and South Dinner Groups.—Offsite.

Wed July 16

1:30 pm

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

Coming Soon

Sat July 26

11:00 am

FPC Booth at Pride.—Offsite.

Save the Date!

