

July 20, 2025
11:00am — Sanctuary



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr Joel Raney

Pealing of the Bells

Call to Worship

Today we sabbath, we take rest in the Lord our God.

We put aside productivity to wonder and worship.

Today we sabbath, to do a different kind of work.

We have gathered to do liturgy, the work of the people.

Today we sabbath, for the world does not revolve around us.

We revolve around God and God's goodness and grace.

Come, let us worship God!

***Hymn No. 463**

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

***Call to Confession**

We come to this moment with our own personal baggage, our histories, our experiences. God invites us to come as we are, and unburden ourselves of our past and know that we are forgiven. Let us pray.

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy and Beloved God, you call us by name, declaring us precious, honored, and loved. Yet we confess that we often fail to see ourselves as you see us. We cling to the chaff in our lives—fear, selfishness, and pride—instead of releasing it to you. We admit that we sometimes view others as rivals rather than as your beloved children, forgetting that your salvation extends to all.

Forgive us, O God, for the ways we resist your refining love. Help us to live as those who are redeemed, sharing your grace and mercy with a world longing to feel precious, honored, and loved. Remind us of your boundless love and help us carry a portion within our hearts. Amen.

*Declaration of Forgiveness

Beloved of God, hear this good news: The One who formed you and called you by name declares, “You are mine.” Through Christ, all that is evil within us is taken away, while all that is good within us is redeemed and restored. In love, God gathers us in, and pours out mercy beyond measure. In Christ, we are forgiven, and God says to us all: **“You are dearly loved.” 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

Isaiah 41:8-10

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Handbell Music

Be Still My Soul

arr Joel Raney

New Testament Reading

Luke 2:8-14

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Fear”

Rev. Dr. Erin McGee

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God: omnipresent, in every time, and in every place, generating and sustaining all life, nurturing relationship with Creation.

We believe in Jesus, the Christ, who lived and loved, taught and died; the One who conquered death and who surprises us with grace, when we least expect or deserve it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who journeys with us and makes our faith possible, in every situation and every circumstance.

We believe that every place we pause to recognize the mystery of our Triune God, is a sacred place, from sanctuaries in the heart of our city to sunrises over the oceans. Surely, God is with us in every time and in every place, and we are grateful. Amen.

***Hymn No. 118**

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

CHRISTMAS

Announcements

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer 3

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.

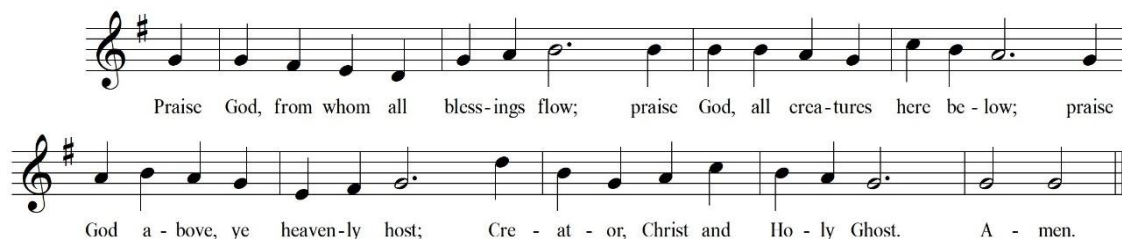
Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Teach Me Your Way, O Lord B Wayne Bisbee

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth: knit my heart to you that I may fear your name. I will thank you, O Lord, my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.

For you, Lord, are gracious and full of compassion. Full of kindness and truth. Turn to me and have mercy upon me. Teach me your way O Lord. . .

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



Prayer of Dedication

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory, made flesh for us and for the sake of the world. These gifts are a reflection of your grace and an offering of our love, for the healing and restoration of all people. We give ourselves to you for Jesus' sake. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 815** Give to the Winds They Fears FESTIVAL SONG

***Benediction**

***Postlude** Toccata on Festal Song Robert Hebble

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Erin McGee, Transitional Lead Presbyterian, Whitewater Valley Presbytery

Liturgist: Marj Sapp

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

Ushers of the Month: Esther Coplin, Eric Evans, Scott McMeen

Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director: Irene Ator

Handbell Ringers: Joan Pattison, Savannah Mooney, Julia Epling, Charlotte Epling

Pianist: Esther Coplin

Soloist: Quinton Davis, 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 |
| | • Najla Jarjour |

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!

Pride Fest 2025: Come and see us at Pride Fest 2025 on Saturday, July 26, from noon-7:00 pm! Help us 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, showcased in the adjacent booth!

Sunday Worship: We're looking for friendly faces to serve as ushers during worship services! Ushers help welcome guests, distribute bulletins, 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@gamil.com. Thank you for serving!

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 on 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 July 21

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 July 23

1:30 pm

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

Sat July 26

11:00 am

FPC Booth at Pride Fest.—Offsite.

Save the Date!

