

July 6, 2025  
Fourth Sunday After Pentecost  
11:00am — Sanctuary



Japanese Stencil Print by Watanabe Sadao



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WEST WAYNE STREET

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

***Congregation responds in bold***

## **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

Variations on My Country 'Tis of Thee

Charles Wesley

**Pealing of the Bells**

**Call to Worship**

Come, all you who wonder and all you who wrestle-

**With questions, with faith, with Scripture, with life.**

Come, seekers and skeptics, dreamers and doubters-

**God welcomes every voice and honors every story.**

Bring your whole self: your insight, your silence, your surprise.

**For the Spirit speaks through many hearts but calls us as one.**

Let us worship the One who holds all truth and all people in love.

**We worship God—One and Holy, Mysterious and Near.**

**\*Hymn No. 331**

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

NATIONAL HYMN

**\*Call to Confession**

God's Word invites honest reflection, not for shame, but for freedom. We come not because we have all the answers, but because we long to be shaped by God's truth. So let us approach God with courage and humility, confessing together the ways we fall short and the hope that still holds us.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, You know how often we shrink our vision, assuming our perspective is the only one, believing our experience defines all truth. You know the moments we dismiss what we don't understand and ignore the voices that challenge or stretch us.

Forgive us for our small thinking, our hardened hearts, and our fear of what is unfamiliar. Open us again to the wideness of your wisdom, the depth of your mercy, and the beauty of your diverse and daring people.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### **\*Declaration of Forgiveness**

Friends in Christ, there is no question too bold, no doubt too messy, no path too winding for God's grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new with minds to seek, hearts to wonder, and lives to serve.

**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**

Psalm 30

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Solo**

Zion's Walls

Revivalist Song arranged by Aaron Copland

*Come fathers and mothers come, sisters and brothers come,*

*Join us in singing the praises of Zion, the praises of Zion.*

*Oh, fathers don't you feel determined to meet within the walls of Zion,*

*We'll shout and go round ... We'll shout and go round the walls of Zion,, the walls of Zion.*

## **New Testament Reading**

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Ponderings on the Passage**

with Susan Bolinger and Scott McMeen

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God above us,  
Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.  
We believe in Christ beside us, companion and friend,  
redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe.  
We believe in Spirit deep within us,  
advocate and guide, who lives with us eternally.  
We believe in God's resurrection created world,  
where all things are fixed,  
and all creation fits together in vibrant harmonies.  
We believe in God above, beside, within,  
God yesterday, today and forever,  
the three in one, the one in three,  
We believe in God. Amen!

**\*Hymn No. 346**

For the Healing of the Nations

ST THOMAS

## **Announcements**

## **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**

Simple Gifts

Shaker Song arranged by Aaron Copland

## **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 Solo

I Come with Joy  
See Hymn 515 for text.

DOVE OF PEACE

## Prayer After Communion

## SENDING

\*Hymn No. 545

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

LAND OF REST

## \*Benediction

\*Postlude     Battle Hymn of the Republic     arranged by Tedd Smith and Don Husted

*All music today was chosen to honor America and the Nation's birthday.*

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Vrina and Gary Stebbins  
by Greg and Phyllis Stebbins and sons.

---

## Assisting with Worship this Morning

---

**Pastors:** Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

**Worship Leaders:** Susan Bolinger, Scott McMeen

**Elders of the Month/Greeters:** Ina Carlson, Jeff Slater

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

**Communion Servers and Preparers:** Anne Barnett, Denise Davis,  
Virginia Kreamer-Lutz, Carolyn Krebs, Scott McMeen, Marj Sapp

**Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director:** Irene Ator

**Soloist:** Quinton Davis

**Pianist:** Susan Dorion

**Live Stream Operator:** Dick Florea

**Sound Board Operator:** Jeff Slater

---

## Prayer List

---

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

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

---

## News and Events

---

### Happy 194th Birthday, First Presbyterian Church!

Founded on July 1, 1831, FPC is proud to be Fort Wayne's oldest continuing congregation. For nearly two centuries, we've worshipped, served, and grown together! Thank you to everyone that's been part of this incredible journey. Here's to the past, present, and the bright future ahead!

### FAME Festival Art Show — Today!

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!



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

Come be a part of God's vibrant mosaic!

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.

FORT WAYNE  
**QUEER**  
**ART CLUB**

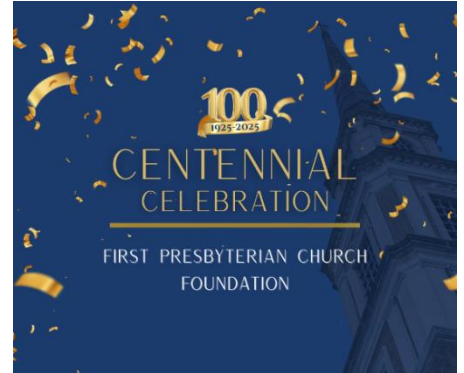
Three to four volunteers will cover each shift so there will be plenty of time to talk, laugh, hug, and make art together.

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!

### **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.





---

## 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](mailto: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 — 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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.**—2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Parlor.

**11:00 am**

**Worship.**—Sanctuary & Livestream.

**Korean Language Worship Service.**—Chapel & Livestream.

**12:00 pm**

**FAME Congregational Reception.**—Gallery.

This Week

**Mon July 7**

**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 9**

**1:30 pm**

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

*Coming Soon*

**Mon July 14**

**5:30 pm**

**North and South Dinner Groups.**—Offsite.

**Sat July 26**

**11:00 am**

**FPC Booth at Pride.**—Offsite.

Save the Date!

