

August 10, 2025
11:00am — Sanctuary



“This Little Light of Mine” original acrylic and digital painting
by Brother Mickey O’Neill McGrath, Oblate of St. Francis de Sales



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Siciliano

Allegro Gracioso from Symphony II

J. S. Bach

Johannes Brahms

Pealing of the Bells

Call to Worship

Are you awake? Are you alert?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Are you watching the signs?

Are you interpreting what is happening today?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Do you see opportunities for ministry?

Do you see the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the needy?

Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.

Come, let us worship, and let us work in the reign of God.

Christ has extended the invitation,

so let us work together in the reign of God on earth!

***Hymn No. 362**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

***Call to Confession**

Jesus tells us not to be afraid, for it is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. And yet, we cling to fear. We guard our hearts and hoard our treasures.

Let us come before the One who longs to clothe us in grace and light our path with mercy, confessing our sins, trusting that love is already at the door.

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, You invite us to live with open hands and watchful hearts, but we confess how often we close ourselves off in fear or distraction. We chase after what does not last, and neglect the treasures of justice, kindness, and compassion.

We grow drowsy to your presence and hesitant to respond when you call. Forgive us, Lord. Awaken us to your Spirit, clothe us in your mercy, and make us ready to serve with joy. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Keep awake, beloved of God, not in fear, but in hope. For the One we wait for has already come near, not to condemn, but to serve. Let us share the Good News:

**In Jesus Christ, our hearts are made new, our hands are made ready,
and our lives are set free to follow. 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 50:1-8, 22-23

Solo

Have No Fear Little Flock

Heinz Zimmerman

New Testament Reading

Luke 12:32-40

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Ponderings on the Passage

with Penny Pulz, June Schwertfager, and Bill Shassere

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation
in and through Jesus Christ.**

**We believe that the church is called
to be the salt of the earth
and the light of the world.**

**We believe that the church is called blessed
because it is a peacemaker.**

**We believe that the church is witness
both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth
in which righteousness dwells. Amen.**

***Hymn No. 757**

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

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.**

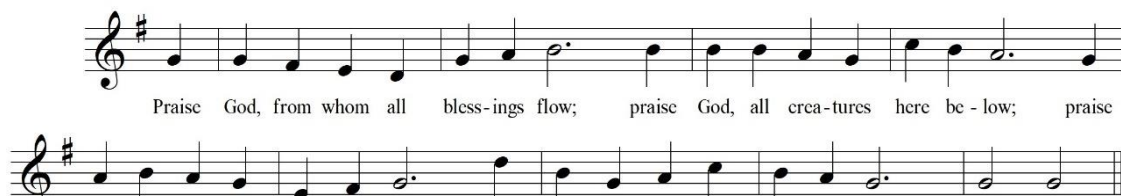
Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

This Little Light of Mine

arr J. Jefferson Cleveland

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



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

God of watchful nights and unexpected grace, we offer these gifts not just to remember your promises, but to prepare for your presence. May our giving keep us alert to your movement, awake to our neighbors, and alive to the hope of your kingdom. Through Christ, who is coming and already among us, amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 749

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

*Benediction

*Postlude Siyahamba (We Are Marching in the Light of God) setting by John Carter

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Marianne Mead Platt
by Chelsea Vaught, Fran Page, and Jill Therrien.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Worship Leaders: Penny Pulz, June Schwertfager, and Bill Shassere

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

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

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 | • Jim & Sondra Mergenthal |
| • Virginia Coats | • Dana & Les Gurney |
| • Family of 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!

Church in the Park Returns!

Join us as we kick off our program year on August 17, at 11:00 am with Worship in the Conklin Pavilion at Shoaff Park! A jazz ensemble will provide the music, and we'll bless the backpacks! We'll have a potluck lunch after church, so please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert.

The pavilion is covered and completely accessible with parking and sidewalks leading to the pavilion, and we will have a golf cart available for anyone needing a lift!

Wear your Hands-On Fort Wayne t-shirt or other First Pres swag! There is plenty to do at Shoaff Park after lunch. So, gather some fellow church friends for Frisbee golf, the splash pad, or golf! You won't want to miss this fun day!

Join Our Schools Team in Outreach

FPC is once again partnering with Blessings in a Backpack to provide weekend food for the children at Washington Elementary School. Seventy percent of the children in Fort Wayne Community Schools struggle with food insecurity. Blessings in a Backpack, a nonprofit organization, combats this by providing children in our schools with a nutritious bag of food in their backpacks every Friday during the school year, ensuring that children not endure an entire weekend before being fed again.

Starting Sunday, August 24, during fellowship time, we need an assembly line of volunteers to fill the bags! This is a fun and easy volunteer activity! Please contact Taff Silliman at 260-402-2194 if you are interested in volunteering as a team leader - or as a food deliverer – or would like to have more information!

Join FPC's Chancel and Handbell Choirs

Rehearsals begin September 4, at 5:30 PM (handbells) and 7:00 PM (chancel choir). New members are always welcome! Contact the church office at 260-426-7421 for more information!

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 11

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. Join members of your First Pres family at either Don Hall's Factory or Hall's Tavern at Coventry.

Tues Aug 12

11:00 am

Memorial Service for Bill Fish.—Chapel.

Wed Aug 13

1:30 pm

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

Coming Soon

Sun Aug 17

11:00 am

Worship in the Park.—Offsite.

Blessing of the Backpacks.—Offsite.

