

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**  
**September 21, 2025**  
**11:00am — Sanctuary**



“Love is All” Janice Van Cronkhite



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

WEST WAYNE STREET

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

**Congregation responds in bold**

## **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

Two Arias

Joseph Jongen, Philip E Baker

**Pealing of the Bells**

**Call to Worship**

Come, people of God, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and humility.

**We come, giving thanks for the beauty of the earth and the gift of each other.**

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, for we are called together in one body.

**We lift our voices in praise. With thankful hearts, let us worship the Lord!**

**\*Hymn No. 14**

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

**\*Call to Confession**

Friends, the Scriptures urge us to put away falsehood and wrath, to strip off the old self with its practices. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sins and seek to be clothed anew in Christ.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**Good and gracious God, in Jesus Christ, you have called us to make disciples, comfort the hurting, and offer others the grace we have found in you. Forgive us when we have been willing to be entertained but not changed, when we have allowed insights to harden into clichés, when we only speak to consolidate our own position, not to listen, and when our celebrations have left others with nothing to enjoy.**

**Forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and transform what we shall be, so that we might better reflect the grace of Jesus Christ and better love our neighbors. Amen.**

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

Hear the good news: As a child of God, holy and beloved, you are forgiven, renewed, and clothed in Christ. The old has passed away; the new life has begun.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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**

### **Time with Children**

*Children and youth in kindergarten thru 9th grade are encouraged to head to Sunday School after the Time with Children.*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Old Testament Reading**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

Isaiah 49:6

**Anthem**

You Servants of God  
For text, See Hymn 299.

Stephen Walters

**New Testament Reading**

This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God!

Colossians 3:8-15

**Sermon**

“A Centripetal Faith”

Rev. Michael Lindvall

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in a God who created all things  
and seeks for all to be in communion as God’s people.

We believe in Jesus Christ who showed us how to share love,  
and who commissioned us to go out into the highways and byways  
inviting all to be a part of God’s work in the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit  
who leads and guides us into the world,  
then touches the lives of those around us  
sharing light and life with the world. Amen.

**\*Hymn No. 39**

Great is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

**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.

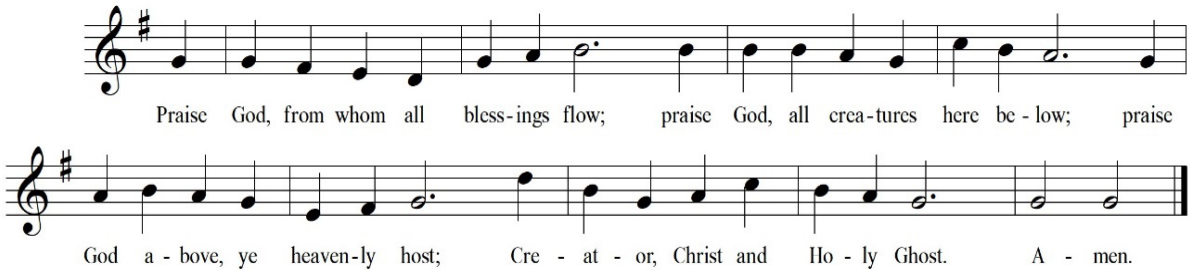
## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

arr. Letha Cole

### \*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

Gracious God, all that we are and have comes from your hand. As we present these gifts, clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, and patience, that our lives may be an offering of love. Use these gifts, and use us, to bind up the broken, to welcome the stranger, and to let the peace of Christ rule in every heart. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## SENDING

### \*Hymn No. 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

Postlude

Horatio W. Parker

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Kathleen Paddock Offerle by Geoff and Steve Paddock.

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## Assisting with Worship this Morning

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**Pastors:** Rev. Michael Lindvall (he/him), Dr. Annie Epling (she/her),  
Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

**Elders of the Month/Greeters:** Denise Davis, Carolyn Krebs

**Ushers of the Month:** Anne Barnett, Dave Beer, Jack Patton, Dan Serban

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

**Interim Chancel Choir Director:** Jonathan Busarow

**Pianist:** Susan Dorion

**Live Stream Operator:** Dick Florea

**Sound Board Operator:** Marj Sapp

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## Prayer List

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- Annie Epling & Family
- Scott Pattison
- Kathy Miller
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- Dana & Les Gurney

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

## Care & Support

FPC is a Stephen Ministries congregation and has a dedicated group of Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. The Stephen Ministry is completely confidential, and open to all FPC members. Please email Rev. Ann Pitman, or call her at 260-426-7421, extension 106, for more information.

## News and Events

### FPC Foundation Centennial Fund

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.



### FPC Day School Fundraiser

Join the fun! The FPC Day School is hosting their annual Pumpkin Party on Thursday, October 9! Pumpkins, mums, and cookies are being sold as a fundraiser, and may be pre-ordered through September 26 at 5:30 PM. Scan the QR code to place your order!



### Project 216: Volunteers Needed

On Wednesday, October 15, we will once again be packing meals for Project 216! Sign up as an individual or a team this Sunday after Worship in the small dining room, or scan the QR code to sign up online!



## **The FPC Art Gallery presents: A Moment in Time**

On Sunday, Sept 28, 2025 from 12:00–1:30 PM, join us for A Moment in Time, a moving and thought-provoking exhibit featuring portraits and personal stories of our unhoused neighbors. This collection offers a rare and intimate glimpse into lives often overlooked, revealing resilience, dignity, and shared humanity. Curated by Marsi Lawson, the exhibit invites you to look beyond the stereotypes and see the strength in each story. Come be part of the conversation.

## **First Pres Theater**

The Timekeepers by Dan Clancy Opens October 3!

A world in chaos. Two men, one bold, young, and flamboyant; the other old, conservative, and guarded, thrown together by fate. What could they possibly have in common? Dark humor, a love of opera... and something deeper.

This powerful, unexpected friendship will make you laugh, cry, and think twice about the walls we build, and how music, wit, and heart can break them down. Directed by John Tolley and Chip Davis. Please note this production is for mature audiences for language and sexual content.

Tickets are available by scanning the QR code, or by calling ArtsTix at 260-424-4226.



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## GETTING CONNECTED

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### **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**

This 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.

#### **Men's Bible Study — Fridays, 10am**

This group is led by Rev. Youngsoo An and meets on Teams. This group resumes on September 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information, email Rev. An at [ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto:ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org).

#### **Women's Bible Study — Fridays, 1pm**

This group is led by Rev. Ann Pitman and meets on Zoom. This group resumes on September 19<sup>th</sup>. For more information, email Rev. Pitman at [apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto:apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org).

### **Table Talk for Women — Wednesdays, 10am**

This group reads a book at their own pace and is led by members of the group on Zoom. ZOOM Meeting ID: 870 6712 2177. ZOOM Passcode: 260 426 7421. For more information, please contact Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733.

### **FELLOWSHIP GROUPS**

#### **North and South Dinner Groups — 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 5:30pm**

Join a Dinner Group! Every 2nd Monday of the month at the same time, 5:30 PM. South Dinner Group meets at Hall's Coventry, no RSVP needed! North Dinner Group meets at Don Hall's Factory. Please RSVP to Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or by email at marj.sapp@gmail.com.

#### **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**

#### ***Starts Today!***

**Sunday School for Children and Youth** - Two Sunday School classes for children and youth are offered during the worship hour.

**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/>.

## CALENDAR

Today

- 10:00 am** **Wired Word.**—2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Parlor.  
**Choir Rehearsal.**—Music Room.
- 11:00 am** **Worship.**—Sanctuary & Livestream.  
**Korean Language Worship Service.**—Chapel & Livestream.  
**Sunday School.**—2<sup>nd</sup> floor classrooms and Youth Lounge
- 12:00 pm** **Fellowship Time.**—McKay Hall.  
**Blessings in a Backpack.**—McKay Hall.  
**Youth Group.**—Youth Lounge.
- 4:00 pm** **Serving Meal at Rescue Mission.**—Offsite.

This Week

**Mon Sept 22**

- 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.
- 5:00 pm** **Serving Meal at St. Joseph.**—Offsite.

**Wed Sept 24**

- 1:30 pm** **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).**—McKay Hall. Lifetime fitness class for adults aged 50 and older.

**Fri Sept 26**

- 10:00 am** **Men's Bible Study.**—Teams.
- 1:00 pm** **Women's Bible Study.**—Zoom.

*Coming Soon*

**Sun Sept 28**

- 12:00 pm** **“A Moment in Time” Art Reception.**—Gallery after worship.

**Sun Oct 19**

- 12:00 pm** **Centennial Celebration.**—McKay Hall after Worship.