

16th Sunday After Pentecost
September 28, 2025
11:00am — Sanctuary



‘Christ the Beggar’ ... a sculpture by Timothy Schmalz
on the steps of Santo Spirito Hospital near the Vatican
(Photograph: Patrick Comerford, 2017)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Rigaudon
The Church of Christ, in Every Age

Andre Campra
David Cherwien

Pealing of the Bells

Call to Worship

We gather in the name of the God who sees all people:
the rich and the poor, the powerful and the powerless.

We come seeking to hear God's Word with open hearts.

Jesus teaches us through stories that challenge and convict us,
calling us to examine how we live and how we love.

Help us to listen with ears that truly hear.

God calls us to notice those who suffer at our gates,
to see the hungry, the sick, and the forgotten.

Come, let us worship with hearts ready to be transformed by Your Word!

***Hymn No. 320**

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

***Call to Confession**

Again and again, we stray from our calling as Christians. At times, we lose compassion; at times, courage; at times, the will to act in love. Yet God is merciful and eager to restore us. With honesty and trust, let us confess our sins together.

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have walked past those who suffer. We have stepped over pain at our doorsteps, turned away from voices that cry out, and debated compassion instead of living it.

Forgive us for lost humanity: for silence where you call for action, for comfort chosen over courage, for excuses that mask indifference.

Have mercy on us, Lord. Find us again in your grace, and set us free to be shelters of love, so that no one is left outside the gate. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Hear the good news: What is lost is never lost to God. In Jesus Christ, compassion is restored, courage is renewed, and our humanity is found again in grace. People of God, believe the promise:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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

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

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Fight the Good Fight
For text, see hymn 846.

John Gardner

New Testament Reading

Luke 16:19-31

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Do You See What I See?”

Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

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 the heart of the city to gates across the world. Surely, God is with us in every time and in every place, with everyone.

***Hymn No. 729**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

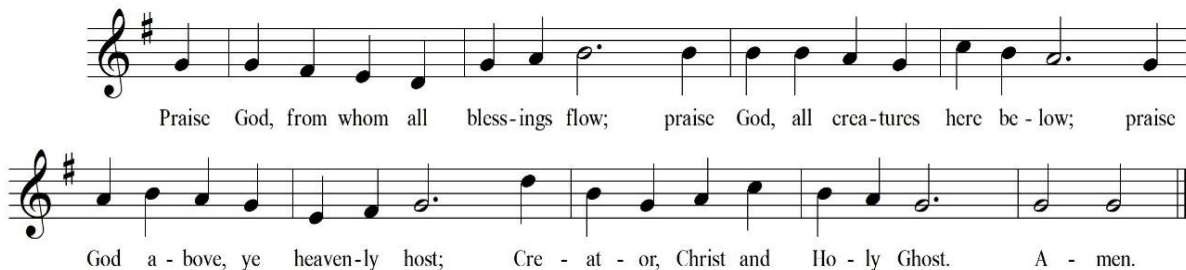
I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

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

Responsive Hymn No. 606** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings FlowPrayer of Dedication**

Generous God, you call us not only to speak of love, but to live it with open eyes, open hands, and open hearts. Take these gifts, more than words, more than good intentions, and turn them into refuge for the weary, bread for the hungry, hope for the lost, and shelter for the unseen.

May our offerings be the gate that opens, not the barrier that excludes. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SENDING***Hymn No. 747**

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ENVIADO

Choir sings the verse, all repeat; choir sings refrain, all repeat; everyone sings the hymn together.

Benediction**Postlude**

Epilogue

Norman Gilbert

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of
Earl Johns, Evelyn Johns Andrews, and David Johns by Alan Johns.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Liturgist: Joan Pattison

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

Handbell Ringers: Julia Epling, Savannah Mooney, Joan Pattison, Marcie Weissner

Chancel Choir: Richard Baughman, David Beer, Cade Carpenter, Quinton Davis, Susan Dorion, Andrew Graham, Liz Graham, DuWayne Hintz, Joan Kern, Jane McGeehan, Scott McMeen, Alli McQueen, Kathy Miller, Kip Ormerod, Mary Jane Ormerod, Ellis Pedersen, Carol Rhudy, Marj Sapp, Sandy Shearer, Jill Therrien, Mary Winters

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Marj Sapp

Prayer List

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

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

First Pres Gallery

The FPC Art Gallery presents: A Moment in Time, immediately after worship today in McKay Foyer.

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.



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!



Music Opportunities

The Chancel Choir sings for all English Worship Services and they welcome anyone who enjoys singing God's praises. Chancel Choir rehearsal is on Thursdays 7pm-8:30pm, and Sundays at 10am.

The Handbell Choir practices Thursdays 5:30pm-6:30pm and rings occasionally in Worship. They are looking for more ringers, so please reach out if you read music and are interested.

For more information, please call the office at 260-426-7421.

Save the Date – Sunday, October 19

Join us for a centennial celebration of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation in McKay Hall after worship on Sunday, October 19, for light hors d'oeuvres, coffee, punch, and cake.

For the past 100 of the church's 194-year existence, the Foundation has served many key purposes, programs. We'll also pay tribute to members who helped make the foundation a cornerstone of First Presbyterian Church. Please join us in celebrating the past and looking forward to the future!

The Foundation Board invites individuals to commemorate the milestone with a gift of \$100 to the Centennial Fund. You may give online by scanning the QR code, or by cash/check at the church office.



FPC Day School Party

Join us for some family fun! The FPC Day School is hosting their annual Pumpkin Party on Thursday, October 9th 5:30-7:30pm in McKay Hall!

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

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 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 5th. For more information, email Rev. An at 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 19th. For more information, email Rev. Pitman at 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 — 2nd 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

Sunday School for Children and Youth

Two age groups of 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/>.

The Chancel Choir sings for all English Worship Services and they welcome anyone who enjoys singing God's praises. Chancel Choir rehearsal is on Thursdays 7pm-8:30pm, and Sundays at 10am. The Handbell Choir practices Thursdays 5:30pm-6:30pm and rings occasionally in Worship.

CALENDAR

Today

9:45 am

Blessings in a Backpack.—McKay Hall.

10:00 am

Wired Word.—2nd Floor Parlor.

Choir Rehearsal.—Music Room.

11:00 am

Worship.—Sanctuary & Livestream.

Korean Language Worship Service.—Chapel & Livestream.

Sunday School.—2nd floor classrooms and Youth Lounge

12:00 pm

“A Moment in Time” Art Reception.—McKay Foyer.

This Week

Mon Sept 29

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 Oct 1

1:30 pm

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

Fri Oct 3

10:00 am

Men's Bible Study.—Teams.

1:00 pm

Women's Bible Study.—Zoom.

8:00 pm

Timekeepers Opening Night.—Theater.

Coming Soon

Thurs Oct 9

5:30 pm

FPC Day School Pumpkin Party.—McKay Hall.

Sun Oct 19

12:00 pm

Centennial Celebration.—McKay Hall after Worship.

Sun Oct 26

9:30 am

Coffee with the Pastors.—Session Room. For those who are interested in learning more about First Pres.