

September 7, 2025
11:00am — Sanctuary



“The Good Shepherd is On the Way” digital artwork by Kevin Carden



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Gather Us In

setting by Robert A. Hobby
arranged by John A Behnke

Pealing of the Bells

Call to Worship

Come, beloved of God, for Christ welcomes us to the table.

We come, bent and broken, weary and waiting.

Here the lost are found, the hurting are healed, the lonely are embraced.

We come to listen for the Shepherd's voice.

Let us worship God, who gathers us to his table with mercy and love.

Here, there is more than enough room for all.

***Hymn No. 401**

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

***Call to Confession**

Before we sit down to eat, we wash our hands, because we come carrying the dust of the day. Not because we are perfect, but because we come carrying the dust of the day. So, it is with our hearts. Before we draw near to God's feast of grace, let us be washed in mercy, cleansed of all that clings too tightly, and made new by the One who welcomes us home.

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from Your ways, from Your love, from each other. Some days we feel like the bent-over woman, unseen and unheard. Some days, we are the man at the table, wondering if we really belong. And some days, Lord, we are simply lost.

Come find us, Shepherd of our souls. Lift us onto Your shoulders of mercy and carry us home, so that we may sit with joy at Your feast of grace. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Friends, hear the Good News: The Shepherd has searched the hills. The Savior has called our names. The table is set, and our place has been saved. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, welcomed, and made whole.

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

Psalm 23

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Will You Come and Follow Me
For Text, See Hymn No. 726.

Tom Trenney

New Testament Reading

Luke 15:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Someone to Watch Over Me”

Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in a God
who searches the hills and valleys,
who will not rest until every lost sheep is found.

We believe in Jesus Christ,
who sets tables of grace for the bent-over,
the broken, the wandering, and the weary,
and then pulls out chairs for the rest of us, too.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who whispers our names when we feel unseen,
who carries us home when we feel unworthy,
and who rejoices when we take our place at the feast of love.

This we believe:
we are sought, we are found, we are welcomed, we are loved.
Thanks be to God!

***Hymn No. 803**

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

settings by R. J. Hughes and J. Eggert

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 Music

Arfon

Wilbur Held

For Text, See Hymn No. 496.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 515**

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Dove of Peace

David Cherwien

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Fritz Perry
by Gil Perry and family.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Liturgist: Scott McMeen

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

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

Communion Servers and Preparers: Emily Caso, Vicki Davis, Connie Hintz, Tim McKeachie, Bill Shassere, Sandy Shearer, Sherrie Steiner

Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director: Irene Ator

Interim Chancel Choir Director: Jonathan Busarow

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

Prayer List

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Annie Epling & Family | • Jim & Sondra Mergenthal |
| • Scott Pattison | • 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

Help Shape Young Hearts and Minds!

Do you have a heart for kids or teens? We are looking for volunteers to lead our Sunday School classes for both children and youth. Whether you love sharing Bible stories, leading discussions, or simply offering a listening ear, this is a wonderful way to make a lasting impact in the lives of our young people.

We'll provide the curriculum and support...you bring your energy, faith, and a willingness to say "yes." Even serving just once a month, or even a semester, would make a huge difference! If you feel called to help nurture the next generation, please contact Rev. Winebrenner at cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Art Gallery

Join us for the FPC Gallery's season opening exhibit, The Illusion of Permanence: The Art of Su A Chae & Kay Gregg, on Friday, September 12, from 5:30-7:00 PM.

Su A Chae is an artist and educator with a primary focus on painting. Chae explores the evolving role of painting in the digital age. Her work delves into asymmetrical balance creating paradoxical spatial relationships and the complexities associated with cultural identity. Chae's work has been widely exhibited regionally and nationally.

Kay Gregg is a visual artist with a focus on the physical nature of human-to-machine interactions. Her artwork has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions across the United States, including at the FWMoA in Fort Wayne, IN. Gregg's work has been collected regionally and nationally.

Enjoy light refreshments while viewing the art and meet the artists behind the work. The event is free and open to the public!

Wired Word

On September 21 during Wired Word, Bill Shassere will lead a discussion on the future of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the church, in the second-floor parlor at 10:00 am. This is a topic that will affect all of humanity within 5 to 10 years, as AI could become smarter than humans and could bring a dramatic change to our world. How will this affect religion and the church? Imagine a virtual Jesus standing before the congregation and delivering the sermon, not just a robot, but a realistic image with power of thought and consciousness. Not to be missed.

Study Connection Volunteers Needed

Study Connection meets at South Wayne Elementary once a week at 3:30, tutors spend one hour reading, practicing math, and playing games while getting to know their students. A major goal is reading comprehension practice that will help 3rd graders to be successful on standardized tests as well as in all of their studies.

Tutors don't always see the positive results of their efforts, but I have watched the students' smiles when they catch sight of their tutors and their gradual improvements in behavior and respectfulness, while others have made strides in their reading ability. If you have an hour to give on Monday afternoons, either as a tutor or a substitute tutor, please let Kathy Adair know at 260-437-0584 (text or call) or email at steveandkathya@gmail.com. Thank you!

Sunday School Kick-Off: September 21!

Get ready for a brand-new year of faith, fun, and friends! On September 21, we launch Holy Moly! (Kinder–5th grade) and Level Up (6th–12th grade). Both classes begin in worship with their families and head to class after the Time with Children. *Please note, Sunday School does not meet on Communion Sundays, so we all participate together.

And for our teens, mark your calendars! Youth Group for 6th–12th graders meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month for games, service, and food! Bring a friend or two, and don't miss it!

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 Sondra Mergenthal at 260-437-9892, or email lisoninc@aol.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

Returning September 21

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.—2nd Floor Parlor.

11:00 am

Worship.—Sanctuary & Livestream.

Korean Language Worship Service.—Chapel & Livestream.

12:00 pm

Fellowship Time.—McKay Hall.

Blessings in a Backpack.—McKay Hall.

This Week

Mon Sept 8

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.

Wed Sept 10

1:30 pm

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

Fri Sept 12

10:00 am

Men's Bible Study.—Zoom.

5:30 pm

Su A Chae and Kay Gregg Gallery Reception.—Gallery.

Coming Soon

Sun Oct 19

12:00 pm

Centennial Celebration.—McKay Hall after Worship.

