

19th Sunday After Pentecost
October 19, 2025
11:00am — Sanctuary



Orthodox Christian icon depicting the healing of the woman with a spirit of infirmity, as described in the Gospel of Luke 13:10-17. The text at the top of the icon, "TAHALZIREA FEMEII GARBOVE", is Romanian for "The Healing of the Bent Woman."



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Praeludium BuxWV 147

Buxtehude

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship

Come, all who are weary or weighed down by life's burdens.

We come, longing to stand tall and whole again.

Christ calls us to lay aside the rules that bind us and the fears that bend us.

We come to encounter love that heals and compassion that restores.

Here, in this community of grace, God's spirit is alive.

Let us worship the One who unbinds us and sets us free.

***Hymn No. 408**

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

***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**

God of mercy and compassion, we confess that we often cling to what is comfortable and defend what we have always known. We are quick to guard the rules and slow to extend grace. We notice faults before we notice pain, and we turn away when love calls us to act.

Forgive us, O God. Bend our proud hearts toward your mercy, so that we may see as Jesus sees, love as Jesus loves, and live as people set free by compassion. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Friends, hear the good news: in Christ we are made whole.

In Christ, we are forgiven and set free to love. 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

Leviticus 19:33-34

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Since by Man Came Death

from Messiah by Handel

New Testament Reading

Luke 13:10-17

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“The Practice of Encountering Others”

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** (Summary of the Law from the Glory to God Hymnal)

Our Lord Jesus said in Matthew 22:37-40:

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

***Hymn No. 761**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

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

Amazing Grace

by Fred Bock

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be-low; praise". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; Cre-at-or, Christ and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men." The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

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 for 2026 Stewardship Pledges**

Generous God, you have given us more than we could ever measure—community, grace, and the gift of one another. We dedicate these pledges as signs of our gratitude and hope. Use them to lift what is bent, to heal what is broken, and to strengthen this community of compassion. Make us, through our giving and our living, a reflection of your love in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 542** God Be with You Till We Meet Again GOD BE WITH YOU

***Benediction**

***Postlude** Fanfare J. N. Lemmens

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Miles J. Davis
by Philip, Victoria and Chip Davis.

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Julia Bain, mother of Rev. Annie Epling, who died on October 9. Her obituary can be found by scanning the QR code.



We also extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of FPC member Dana Gurney, who died on October 9. A memorial service will be held in the Chapel at the Towne House Retirement Community on Sunday, November 9, at 3:00 PM.

A memorial service for Art Brickman will be held in the Chapel at the Towne House Retirement Community on Wednesday, October 29, at 11:00 am. Visitation begins at 10:00 am.

Please keep Annie, Dana, and Art's families and friends in your prayers.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Annie Epling (she/her), Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Tony Borton, Besty Perry Patton

Ushers of the Month: Esther Coplin, Eric Evans, Carol Offerle, Penny Pulz, June Schwertfager, Beth White

Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director: Irene Ator

Interim Chancel Choir Director: Jonathan Busarow

Chancel Choir: Richard Baughman, David Beer, Cade Carpenter, Edith Coplin, Esther Coplin, Quinton Davis, Susan Dorion, Andrew Graham, Liz Graham, DuWayne Hintz, Joan Kern, Jane McGeehan, Scott McMeen, Alli McQueen, Kelem Mitchell, 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: Jeff Slater

Prayer List

- Kathy Miller
- Family of Dana Gurney
- Family of Josué Njock Libii
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- Family of Art Brickman
- Family of Annie Epling

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

We're thrilled to share some amazing news!

We have three Fort Wayne Newspapers Readers' Choice Award winners for 2025!

First Presbyterian Church #2 in Place of Worship

First Presbyterian Theater #2 in Live Theater

First Presbyterian Day School #1 Child Care

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who voted and showed their support. Your encouragement means the world to us and inspires everything we do! We're honored to serve our community in faith, the arts, and education, and we couldn't have done it without you!

All Saints Worship Service - Submit Names for Remembrance

As we prepare for our All Saints worship service on Sunday, November 2, we invite you to submit the names of friends and loved ones you wish to have remembered during the service. Please submit names by Monday, October 27, by emailing the name(s) to aburger@firstpresfortwayne.org. Let us honor their memory together in this special time of reflection and gratitude.

New to First Pres?

We'd love to meet you at **Coffee with the Pastors on Sunday, October 26 at 9:30 AM in the Session Room**. This relaxed gathering is a chance to share coffee and conversation with our pastors, hear about the ministries of First Pres, and discover ways you can connect, serve, and grow. We'll even take a quick tour of the church so you can get to know our space and history.

If you're ready to take the next step, we'll walk you through the process following the gathering. Questions? Ready to RSVP? Reach out to Rev. Carrie Winebrenner, Associate Pastor at cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Thank You Reception

Join us immediately after worship on Sunday, October 26, for a time of fellowship and gratitude as we celebrate Jonathan Busarow, our Interim Choir Director. We are deeply thankful for Jonathan's wonderful leadership and the joy, skill, and dedication he has brought to our music ministry over the past several months. All are invited to stop by, share your thanks, and enjoy this time together!

Yellow Frames Project

A Yellow Frames Project Workshop will be held on Thursday, October 30, from 5:30-6:30 pm in the FPC Parlor (artists may stay longer to finish their project if needed). Participants receive yellow frames with canvas or board to make whatever art they would like to create during the workshop. Frames and art materials are provided!

Participants can take their art home or allow us to hang it in the Art of Hope show that opens in the Gallery on November 14.

Contact Beth Iserman at bdiserman@gmail.com to RSVP, or for more information! Learn more about the Yellow Frame Project at <https://www.theyellowframeproject.org/>.

Coming Soon to First Presbyterian Theater: The Gift of the Magi

Experience the warmth and wonder of the season with The Gift of the Magi, a touching operatic retelling of O. Henry's beloved Christmas story. Running for one weekend only, November 14–16, this intimate production follows Jim and Della, a poor married couple who long to give each other meaningful Christmas gifts, only to discover that love itself is the greatest gift of all.

Directed by Maestro Robert Nance and featuring talented singers from Heartland Sings, this cherished American chamber opera captures the humor, tenderness, and timeless beauty of selfless devotion. Join us for The Gift of the Magi, a heartfelt celebration of love, generosity, and the true spirit of Christmas! Tickets are available by scanning the QR code, or by calling ArtsTix at 260-422-4226. See you at the theater!



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

10:00 am

Wired Word.—2nd Floor Parlor.

Choir Rehearsal.—Music Room.

10:15 am

Blessings in a Backpack.—McKay Hall.

11:00 am

English Worship.—Sanctuary & Livestream.

Korean Language Worship Service.—Chapel & Livestream.

Sunday School.—2nd floor classrooms and Youth Lounge

12:00 pm

Centennial Celebration.—McKay Hall.

This Week

Mon Oct 20

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 22

1:30 pm

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

Fri Oct 24

10:00 am

Men's Bible Study.—Teams.

1:00 pm

Women's Bible Study.—Zoom.

Coming Soon

Sun Oct 26

9:30 am

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

12:00 pm

Reception for Jonathan Busarow.—McKay Hall after worship.