

23rd Sunday After Pentecost
November 16, 2025
11:00am — Sanctuary



Maria Prymachenko, A Lamb Has Harnessed a Wolf (1969).



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Psalm-Prelude #2, Set 1

Herbert Howells

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

And also with you.

Let us worship God!

***Hymn No. 667**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

***Call to Confession**

The psalmist wrote, “Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and you forgave the guilt of my sin.” Let us not hide our sins from God, but confess before God and one another, assured of God’s gracious forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious and loving God, we confess that we are troubled by the events of our lives and the state of this world. Headlines are full of wars, insurrections, suffering, earthquakes, famines, and death. These things are enough to shake our faith and undermine our confidence in your promise. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. Deliver us from speculation that distracts us from faithful living and loving service. Forgive us when we doubt your promises. Help us to endure that we may gain our souls, always bearing witness to your love and grace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

“For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God’s steadfast love toward those who fear him.”

**“As far as the east is from the west,
so far God removes our transgressions from us.”**

Hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins 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

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Isaiah 65:17-25

Anthem

Come Down, O Love Divine

William Harris

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:5-19

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Don't Freak Out!”

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

(from A Brief Statement of Faith)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Hymn No. 353**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

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.

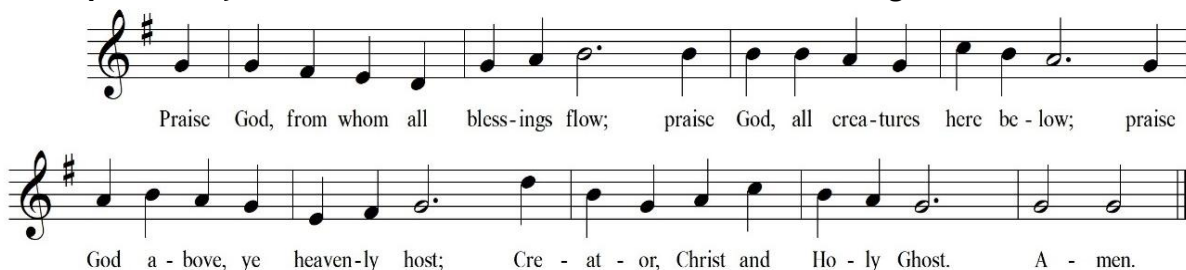
Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Allegretto

César Franck

*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

Great and giving God, we know every good and perfect gift comes from you. In return, we give these offerings and pray they will not only supply the needs of others but also overflow with many thanksgivings to you. Thank you for our many blessings. Lord, show us how to use what you have given us to be a blessing to others. In the name of Jesus Christ, your indescribable gift. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 269

Lead On, O King Eternal!

LANCASHIRE

*Benediction

*Postlude

Fugue in G major BWV 541

Johann Sebastian Bach

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in memory of loved ones
by Susan and Frank Johnson.

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

Director of Music Ministries: Colin Andrews

Assistant Organist: Irene Ator

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 | • Jim & Sondra Mergenthal |
| • Family of Dana Gurney | • Cormac Wallace |
| • Kelly Leach | |

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

A Unique Fellowship Time

Come join us for fellowship time in the gallery today after worship! We are both offering the chance to meet and greet our new Director of Music Ministries, Colin Andrews, as well as appreciating the newest gallery exhibit, Art of Hope.

First Presbyterian Theater: The Gift of the Magi

Today at 2pm is the last showing of The Gift of the Magi, a touching operatic retelling of O. Henry's beloved Christmas story. Tickets are available by scanning the QR code, or by calling ArtsTix at 260-422-4226. See you at the theater!



KLM Thanksgiving Dinner

KLM's annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 23, after worship in McKay Hall. This year, we will especially take time to express our gratitude for the service and dedication of all veterans within our church community. Please find an invitation in the bulletin.

Community TDOR Vigil

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. TDOR was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998.

In honor of those in our community and the world who have suffered violence or death, several local congregations and community organizations will join us for a special spoken-word and candle-lighting vigil held on November 20th at 6:30 PM in the McKay Hall Foyer. All are welcome.



2026 Giving

The 2026 giving envelopes are now available for pick up in the small dining room.

Interfaith Thanksgiving

Join community members of all faith backgrounds for a Thanksgiving meal at The Temple (5200 Old Mill Rd) on Tuesday, November 26th at 7pm. A cookie reception and fellowship time will follow.



Advent by Candlelight

Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:30pm in the Parlor. Music & Readings in the Chapel at 7:15pm. An evening of fellowship, music and reflection in the midst of the season of preparation. Members are welcome to bring a dessert to share if you would like, but you do not need to! Please sign-up in the church office or on Realm. We welcome you to invite friends and family to join us!

Five in Faith: Stewardship Update

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has already submitted your pledge for 2026! Your generosity and faithfulness help us plan for the year ahead with confidence and hope. Our pledges so far total \$391,814.00!

If you haven't yet turned in your pledge, there's still time! Pledge cards are available in the pews, the church office, and online at.... Every response, no matter the amount, makes a meaningful difference in our shared ministry.

A quick note: we've received a few pledge cards without names. If you turned in your card but haven't received a thank-you letter, please contact Sarah in the church office so we can ensure your gift is properly recorded.

You can make your 2026 pledge by scanning the QR code.

The 2026 giving envelopes are also now available for pick up in the small dining room for those who prefer to use the weekly envelopes. Together, we're stepping forward...by faith, not by sight!



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.

NURSERY

Jesus loves the little children, and we do too! But should you decide that today would be a good time to explore the nursery, your child, ages 6 months through five years, is always invited. Our nursery meets in the first-floor day school wing, so please ask an usher or the front office volunteer for assistance and a key fob.

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.

Women's Bible Study — Fridays, 1pm

This group is led by Rev. Ann Pitman and meets on Zoom. 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.

Men's Bible Study — Fridays, 10am

This group is led by Rev. Youngsoo An and meets on Teams. For more information, email Rev. An at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org.

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

Both Sunday School Age groups attend worship through the "Time with Children" and then head to class as a group. Neither class meets on Communion Sundays so that we may celebrate as a whole church.

Youth Group

All 6th-12th graders are encouraged to join this amazing group of young people! Keep an eye on the Family Ministry bulletin board (by the elevator) for schedules and plans.

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.

11:00 am

English Worship.—Sanctuary & Livestream.

Korean Language Worship Service.—Chapel & Livestream.

Sunday School.—2nd floor classrooms and Youth Lounge

12:00 pm

Meet and Greet/Congregational Reception.—Gallery. Come view the Art of Hope exhibition and meet Colin Andrews, the new Director of Music Ministries.

Blessings in a Backpack.—McKay Hall.

Youth Group.—Youth Lounge.

This Week

Mon Nov 17

1:30 pm

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).—McKay Hall.

3:00 pm

Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship.—Room 302.

Wed Nov 19

1:30 pm

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).—McKay Hall.

Thurs Nov 20

6:30 pm

Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil.—McKay Foyer.

Fri Nov 21

10:00 am

Men's Bible Study.—Teams.

1:00 pm

Women's Bible Study.—Zoom.

Coming Soon

Sun Nov 23

12:00 pm

KLM Thanksgiving Dinner.—McKay Hall after worship.