

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 22, 2026**  
**11:00am — Sanctuary**



Jesus raises Lazarus, 6th-century mosaic, Ravenna.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

WEST WAYNE STREET

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

**Congregation responds in bold**

## **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

Here I am, Lord

arr. Arnold Sherman

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Call to Worship**

Friends, sometimes the world feels heavy.

**The news is hard, and our hearts grow weary.**

Yet even in the hardest moments, God is still at work.

**God is still bringing life where we expect only endings.**

In the story of Lazarus, Jesus stood before a tomb.

**And still, he spoke words of life.**

So we come today with whatever we carry—

**Our grief, our questions, our hopes.**

Come and listen for the voice that calls us out of darkness.

**Come and worship the God who brings life again.**

Let us worship God.

**\*Hymn No. 286**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**God of life, we confess that we do not always expect good news.**

**We look at the world and assume nothing will ever change.**

**We see suffering and think hope has already been buried.**

**Sometimes we stand outside the tomb and believe the stone is too heavy to ever be rolled away.**

**We forget that you are still at work, bringing life where we expect only endings, opening possibilities where we see none.**

**Forgive us when our faith grows small. Forgive us when fear closes our hearts.**

**Forgive us when we stop listening for your voice calling us into new life.**

**Remove whatever stones we have placed between ourselves and your grace.**

**Call us again into the life you promise. Amen.**

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

Friends, hear the good news. When Jesus stood before Lazarus' tomb, he did not speak words of blame or judgment. He called his friend back into life. That same voice calls to us today—calling us out of fear, out of despair, out of whatever holds us captive. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, we are set free. In Jesus Christ, new life begins again.

**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. 166 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days ST FLAVIAN**

5 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray, teach  
As you with Sa - tan did con - tend and did the vic - tory win, O

us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.  
give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.

## **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**

### **Anthem**

These Are They which Follow the Lamb

John Goss

### **Old Testament Reading**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## A Dramatic Reading of John 11

Sermon

“Why Are You Wearing Those Grave Clothes?” Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### \*Affirmation of Faith

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.  
It sounds like welcome and feels like home.  
It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.  
It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,  
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.  
I have seen it alive in the world.  
And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage,  
even when mercy feels out of reach,  
I remember the one who welcomed the children  
and led with nonviolence.  
I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable  
and inspired those around him.  
I remember that the good news really is good news,  
for I have seen it alive in the world.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.

\*Hymn No. 700

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

#### 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

A Carol for All Seasons

arr. Terry Price

**\*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**

**Generous God, every good gift comes from you.**

**Take these offerings and use them to bring hope where there is despair,  
life where there is loss, and good news to all your people.**

**Through Christ, who calls us into new life. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*Hymn No. 215**

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

Toccata “Fluorescence”

Paul Patterson

**CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Andrew Gumbert  
by his parents, Ron and Diane, and his brother, David.

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## Assisting with Worship this Morning

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

**Director of Music Ministries:** Colin Andrews

**Assistant Organist:** Irene Ator

**Worship Leader:** Laura Laudeman

**Elders of the Month/Greeters:** Tony Borton, Sherrie Steiner

**Ushers of the Month:** Anne Barnett, Esther Coplin, Eric Evans, Carol Offerle, Jack Patton, Steve Weissner

**Chancel Choir:** Richard Baughman, Edith Coplin, Quinton Davis, Susan Dorion, Andrew Graham, Liz Graham, DuWayne Hintz, Joan Kern, Jane McGeehan, Scott McMeen, Alli McQueen, Kemel Mitchell, Kip Ormerod, Ellis Pedersen, Carol Rhudy, Marj Sapp, Sandy Shearer, Jill Therrien, Mary Winters

**Live Stream Operator:** Dick Florea

**Sound Board Operator:** Jeff Slater

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## Prayer List

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- Kathy Miller
- Mary Winters
- Janice Roddy
- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Jim and Sondra Mergenthal
- Family and friends of John Ruble
- Tanner, nephew of Jennifer Stone

**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. For more information, please contact Carolyn Krebs at 956-844-3890 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733.

## Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or you're a longtime member, we are thrilled to have you join us as we explore our shared journey with Christ. I hope you find the worship service uplifting and meaningful.

Here at First Presbyterian Church, we hold our 193-year-old history in creative tension with 21st-century challenges. We honor traditions that have shaped generations before us while exploring how Jesus's message speaks to the complexities of life today. Our members come from different backgrounds, carry unique stories, and approach faith with a variety of perspectives. Some of us may have questions, others may have doubts, and many of us are navigating challenges—yet we come together as one body to worship and grow in faith.

You're welcome to visit our website at [www.firstpresfortwayne.org](http://www.firstpresfortwayne.org) for more information about the church, and I invite you to talk to any of the pastors, stop by the Welcome Table in the narthex (lobby) after church, and/or join us for coffee in McKay Hall following worship. We have many programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. And, if you are looking for a church home, we hope you'll get connected at First Presbyterian. It would be an honor to be your church family.

Blessings,  
Annie Epling, Pastor/Head of Staff

### —> **Hearing Loops**

To use the “Hearing Loop” during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the “T”, T-Coil or telephone position.

### —> **Families with Children**

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.

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### Hands On Fort Wayne T-Shirt Distribution

The Missions Committee will be handing out HOFW t-shirts after worship **today!** Please stop by the table in the small dining room!

### Upcoming Music Series Concert

Join us for an afternoon of extraordinary music! Internationally acclaimed artist Jeremy Filsell, hailed as one of the few virtuoso performers on both piano and organ, will present a piano recital as part of the 2025/26 FPC Music Series **today** at 2:00 PM. Lunch will be available in McKay Hall starting at 12:45 pm for those staying to enjoy this free and open to the public recital! We hope you'll join us!

### Make Easter Unforgettable with Music & Flowers!—Deadline Today

Easter is a time of joy, celebration, and renewal—and you can help make it even more special!

To donate to music, flowers, or both, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church (memo: Music or Chancel Guild – Easter) and send them to: First Presbyterian Church, 300 West Wayne Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 or donate online by scanning the QR code.



The **deadline for contributions is today** in order for dedications to be included in the Easter bulletin. Thank you for making this Easter a truly beautiful and joyful celebration!

### Upcoming Gallery Show

Consider The Lilies of the Field: Botanical Art, featuring work by Hannah Burnworth, Megan Sheetz, Patricia Weiss, and Vicki Davis. Botanical art showcases the natural world, its beauty, and the importance of conservation. Exhibiting artists will display botanical works focused on earth care, environmentalism, spring, preserving the earth, and gardening. The opening night reception—**this Friday at 5:30pm**—includes art, music, refreshments, and conversation!

## Holy Week 2026

Walk with us through the sacred journey of Holy Week as we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter!

- **Palm Sunday | March 29 | 11pm** – Celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry with palms and praise. Weather permitting, we’ll begin in the Courtyard.
- **Maundy Thursday | April 2 | 7pm** – A solemn reflection on Jesus’ Last Supper with Communion and a soup and salad supper in McKay Hall.
- **Good Friday | April 3 | 12pm** – A service of prayer, song, and silence at the foot of the cross.
- **Easter Egg Hunt | April 5 | 10am** – A joyful celebration for children, youth, and families.
- **Easter Sunday Worship | April 5 | 11am** – Rejoice in the resurrection with a traditional service featuring brass orchestration.

## Lenten Food Collection:

The Hunger Relief Team will again sponsor our annual *FISH and LOAVES* food collection during Lent. Leave your donations on the Fish and Loaves table located next to the Church office. You can leave your donations anytime the church is open through Palm Sunday. We are requesting the following items:

Canned tuna	Snack crackers
Tuna in pre-packaged cups or packets	Saltine or oyster crackers
Canned salmon	Tuna Helper

This collection is in addition to our monthly food collection. We prayerfully hope that you will support both of these efforts during this special church season.

## Meal Train for Savannah and Connor Mooney

As this precious family settles into life with their brand-new baby girl, let’s surround them with love in one of the most practical ways we know how—food. We invite you to sign up to provide a freezer-friendly meal that can be easily reheated and enjoyed whenever it’s needed most. Thank you for being the village! You may sign up by scanning the QR code.



## **FWCS Clothing Bank:**

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, sometimes enabling the attendance of students who have no appropriate clothing for school. All types of gently-used clothing in all sizes (baby to adult) are needed, as well as shoes, coats, boots, gloves/mittens, and hats. (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!

## **2026 Presbyterian Scholarship**

The 2026 selection period for First Presbyterian Scholarship is now open. Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 are made available to members of First Presbyterian Church Fort Wayne, and their families to provide financial assistance in pursuit of post-secondary education.

Scholarship recipients may be of any age if they are/will be full-time students taking degree-directed courses during the 2026-2027 school year. No one can receive the scholarship more than four times.

If interested, please email Sarah Kelley ([skelley@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto:skelley@firstpresfortwayne.org)) in the Financial Office for more information and an application. Completed applications, along with a carefully edited essay, a listing of church participation and activities, and a cumulative high school or college transcript, must be received by **April 1, 2026**.

## **Silent Movie & Organ in the Theater**

Step back into film history with two special screenings of "Our Hospitality" (1923), a classic Buster Keaton comedy brought to life with a live theatre organ performance by Fort Wayne native Mark Herman. Join us at **7pm on Saturday, April 18** or **2pm on Sunday, April 19** for an amazing blend of classic cinema, live music, and timeless entertainment, perfect for film lovers and audiences of all ages! Youth 17 and under are FREE! Tickets are available through ArtsTix online by scanning the QR code or call 260-422-4226!



## Mark your calendar for *Hands on Fort Wayne*—Sunday, April 12!

The FPC Missions Committee is thrilled to announce the kick-off of our third annual community service initiative, *Hands on Fort Wayne*!

- What is *Hands on Fort Wayne*? It's a day that we as a congregation will go out into the community and share the good news of Christ through our actions.
- Why are we doing this? Because Jesus told the disciples after His Resurrection to “go” and announce His Word. And so, we are “going” out to serve in the name of Christ and announce our faith through our works.
- How are we doing this? People of all ages will go out and serve “hands on” for our community. We encourage you to invite family and friends to participate with us, too. Sunday worship will be very abbreviated and will include a commissioning of service prior to beginning our work.

Sign-up sheets are now available for each project in the small dining room or you can scan the QR code. The deadline to sign up is April 5! We can't wait to serve and share the Good News with you!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

# MAD<sup>2</sup> CAMP

AN ARTS CAMP FOR KINDER THRU 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

# KPOP EDITION!

# JUNE 1-5, 2026

Scan Me To Register! 

Scan Me To Volunteer! 

IT'S YOUR MOMENT TO SHINE!

A cartoon illustration of a blue cat with yellow eyes, wearing a black witch hat with a white pom-pom. The cat is smiling and has its mouth open, showing its teeth. It is positioned in the bottom right corner of the banner.

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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. All are welcome.

### **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.

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

This group is now led by Rev. Susan Keirn Kester and meets on Zoom. For more information, email Susan at [keirnsusan@aol.com](mailto:keirnsusan@aol.com).

#### **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](mailto:ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org).

## **FELLOWSHIP GROUPS**

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

A great way to get to know other First Pres members is through our local area Dinner Groups. These groups meet the 2nd Monday of every month at 5:30pm. The South Dinner Group meets at Hall's Coventry (5745 Coventry Lane). No need to RSVP, just ask for the First Pres tables. It's a big group, so you can't miss it! The 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. We look forward to seeing you!

### **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 Sunday School classes for children and youth are offered during the worship hour. We all begin worship in the sanctuary, then the children head to Sunday School after Time with Children. Please note: Sunday School classes will not meet on Communion Sundays so that we may all participate in that sacrament as a family.

### **Holy Moly — for children in Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade**

Join us for another fun semester of learning from the Holy Moly curriculum from SparkHouse. Each class includes a Bible story, video, and craft time, with an opportunity to earn Bible Bucks for fun prizes and treats.

## Level Up — for youth in 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grades

Join us as we explore big questions about our church, our faith, and the world, such as science, politics, social justice, and environment.

## Youth Group — 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, 12:15-2PM, lunch provided

Building relationships while burning off some energy is important! Through service, games, food, and more, we have many events to decompress from school and extracurriculars throughout the year. 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 including:

- Help Not Handcuffs
- Washington Elementary School
- South Wayne Elementary School
- South Side High School
- St. Josephs Mission
- Wellspring Interfaith Services
- East Wayne Street Food Bank
- United Faith Presbyterian Church Food Bank
- Amistad Presbyterian Church
- Matthew 25 Clinic
- Rescue Mission
- Reproductive Rights Action Committee with Plymouth UCC
- PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers in Costa Rica, Taiwan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon

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/>.

Our **Theater**, established in 1968, creates entertaining, educational, and inclusive theatre productions to inspire and motivate our audiences. We produce comedies, musicals, and dramas that teach us about ourselves and the world we live in. Our engaging productions have something for everyone, including pertinent messages like love, compassion, and bravery, while focusing on the human condition which can be funny and traumatizing.

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.**—2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Parlor.  
**Choir Rehearsal.**—Music Room.
- 11:00 am**      **English Worship.**—Sanctuary & Livestream.  
**Korean Language Worship Service.**—Chapel & Livestream.
- 12:00 pm**      **Blessings in a Backpack.**—McKay Hall.  
**Fellowship Time.**—McKay Hall.
- 2:00 pm**      **Jeremy Filsell Piano Concert.**—Sanctuary.

This Week

**Mon Mar 23**

- 1:30 pm**      **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).**—McKay Hall.  
**3:00 pm**      **Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship.**—Room 302.

**Tues Mar 24**

- 5:30 pm**      **Mahjong at Two Bamboo.**—Offsite. Join us for a fun night of learning and playing at the newest spot in town. RSVP today!



**Wed Mar 25**

- 1:30 pm**      **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).**—McKay Hall.

**Fri Mar 26**

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

*Coming Soon*

**Palm Sunday | March 29 | 11pm** – Celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry with palms and praise. Weather permitting, we'll begin in the Courtyard.

**Maundy Thursday | April 2 | 7pm** – A solemn reflection on Jesus' Last Supper with Communion and a soup and salad supper in McKay Hall.

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