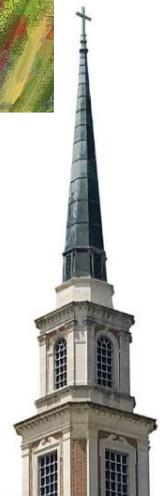


March 29, 2026
Palm/Passion Sunday
11:00am — Sanctuary



“Palm Sunday” original acrylic on wood by Jen Norton



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship

Long ago, Jerusalem witnessed two parades.

One came from the west - Pontius Pilate, entering with soldiers, banners, and the power of Rome.

The other came from the east - Jesus of Nazareth riding a donkey, surrounded by people waving branches and shouting Hosanna.

Two parades. Two visions of power. Two very different kingdoms.

We gather today to follow the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Let us worship God.

Proclamation of the Entrance Into Jerusalem

Luke 19:28-40

***Hymn No. 196**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*Please turn to the last page of your bulletin for the music;
on each refrain, please wave your branches.*

***Call to Confession**

On that first Palm Sunday, the people of Jerusalem filled the streets. Some cheered with hope. Others watched with suspicion. Still others tried to protect their power and their peace. Each person had to decide which parade they would follow.

We face the same choice today. We are invited to walk the way of Christ, yet we often drift toward the ways of fear, pride, and control. Still, the good news is this. The One who rides into the city in humility also comes to us with mercy. Trusting in that grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy and merciful God,

you come to us not with force, but with love.

You enter our lives not with armies, but with peace.

**Yet we confess that we often prefer the parade of power.
We seek control instead of compassion.
We choose comfort instead of courage.
We remain silent when justice calls us to speak.**

**We welcome you with palms on Sunday,
but struggle to follow you through the week.
We shout Hosanna with our lips,
yet resist the humble path of your kingdom.**

**Forgive us, O God.
Turn our hearts toward your way.
Teach us to walk in the parade of grace,
to follow Christ with humility and courage,
and to trust the kingdom that comes through love.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

The One who entered Jerusalem in humility enters our lives with mercy. Jesus Christ does not turn away those who seek him with honest hearts. He meets us with forgiveness, restores us with grace, and calls us again to follow him.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, we are made new.

Let us walk in the way of his kingdom. 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. 197**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

ELLACOMBE

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.

Anthem

Give me Jesus

Moses Hogan

Dramatic Reading of Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon

“Two Parades”

Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

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. 198**

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!

ST DROSTANE

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

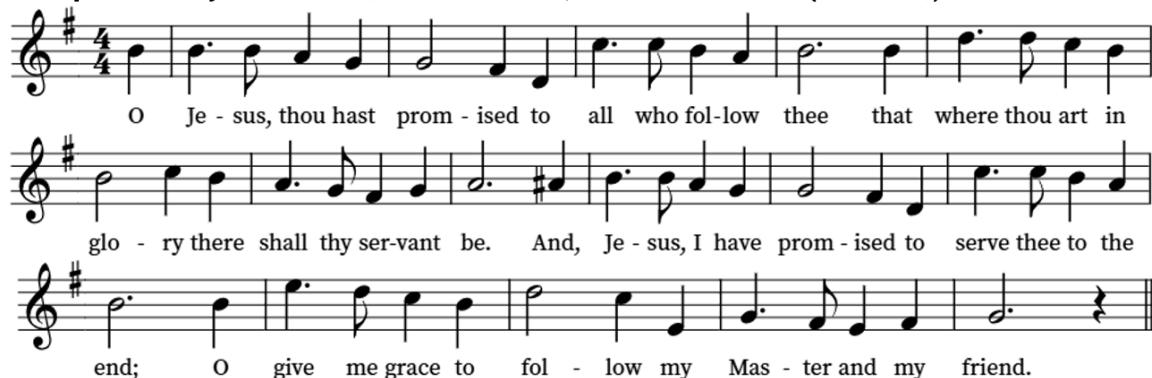
God So Loved the World

John Stainer

***Responsive Hymn No. 724**

Oh Jesus, I Have Promised (Stanza 4)

ANGEL'S STORY



O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol-low thee that where thou art in
glo - ry there shall thy ser-vant be. And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the
end; O give me grace to fol - low my Mas - ter and my friend.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, you entered Jerusalem not with armies or wealth, but with humility and peace. You came not to claim power, but to offer love. Receive these gifts we bring today. Let them serve your purposes of mercy, justice, and hope in this community and beyond, and join the parade of grace that leads to life. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 200**

A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

CHRISTIAN LOVE

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Litanies

Jehan Alain

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of FPC Jubilee member Phyllis Evans, who died on March 21, 2026.

Please keep Phyllis' family and friends in your prayers.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

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

Director of Music Ministries: Colin Andrews

Assistant Organist: Irene Ator

Worship Leader: Jordan Plohr

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

Prayer List

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

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 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.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Holy Week 2026

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

- **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.

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!



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) 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!



Calling All Kids!

Grab your basket, and join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt at 10AM on Easter morning! We will kick everything off in McKay Hall, with designated search areas for similar age groups. For our hunters in the 4th – 12th grades, we will go on an Easter Egg **Scavenger** Hunt throughout the entire building! Pastor Carrie will break us all into teams (so bring friends to help!) and you'll receive your first clue in McKay Hall.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

MAD² CAMP

AN ARTS CAMP FOR KINDER THRU 5TH 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 character with large yellow eyes, a wide grin showing its teeth, and a small black hat with a red band on its head. The cat is set against a background of purple and blue light rays.

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. 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 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.

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

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 4th 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 5th through 9th 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 — 3rd 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.**—2nd Floor Parlor.
Choir Rehearsal.—Music Room.
- 11:00 am** **English Worship.**—Sanctuary & Livestream.
Korean Language Worship Service.—Chapel & Livestream.
- 12:00 pm** **Fellowship Time.**—McKay Hall.

This Week

Mon Mar 30

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

Wed Apr 1

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

Thurs Apr 2

- 7:00 pm** **Maundy Thursday Service.**—McKay Hall.

Fri Apr 3

- 10:00 am** **Men's Bible Study.**—Teams.
12:00 pm **Good Friday Service.**—Chapel.

Coming Soon

Sun Apr 5

- 10:00 am** **Easter Egg Hunt.**—McKay Hall.
11:00 am **Easter Sunday Worship.**—Sanctuary & Livestream.

Sun Apr 12

- 11:00 am** **Hands On Fort Wayne!**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor 196

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho-san-nas ring!

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
2 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
3 To thee, be - fore thy pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise;
4 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed One.
our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King!

to Refrain